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Amman, 29 December 1983

Lebanon reconciliation hopes fade Junblatt calls talks with Christian side impossible

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's top opposition spokesman, Druze leader Walid Junblatt, said on Wednesday that agreement with President Amin Gemayel's administration and the right-Christian Phalange Party on national reconciliation has become impossible.

The 36-year-old leader accused the Lebanese army of siding with Christian militiamen in violating the ceasefire and killing nationalist civilian areas in the Mount Lebanon and (Beirut's) southern districts.

Any agreement with Amin Gemayel, Junblatt told a news conference in Beirut, "I have no hopes left in continuing the dialogue with the Lebanese administration."

Junblatt seemed to put an end to hopes of an early resumption of reconciliation talks between Lebanon's nine senior-most Muslim and Christian leaders on political, economic and social reforms that could end the nation's eight-year-old civil war. Junblatt Gemayel, since the break-up of the Phalangists, has been touring Lebanon capitals in search of a way to end the obstacle presented by the unsigned Lebanese-Israeli troop withdrawal accord.

Gemayel concluded the tour of the four capitals that contribute to the 5,600-man National Force two weeks ago. There has been speculation that the recon-

ciliation talks might be resumed either in Switzerland or Saudi Arabia next month.

"The Nationalist forces will carry on their struggle to achieve the aspirations of the Lebanese people in regaining independence, freedom and sovereignty," Junblatt said.

Although he did not say whether the struggle would be carried out by force of arms, the statement suggests he might resume the civil war with his Shi'ite militia allies against the army and the Phalangist Lebanese forces militia.

In previous statements after the 26 September ceasefire halted the latest civil war eruption in the Shouf Mountains and Beirut's Shi'ite suburbs, Junblatt had set the end of November, and then the end of this year, as the deadline for reconciliation.

He called Wednesday's news conference to protest a Lebanese army offensive in mostly Muslim West Beirut over the weekend to flush out Shi'ite militiamen from areas abutting the Sabra and Shatila Palestinian refugee camps.

Police said the three-day fighting left 60 people dead, most of them civilians and militiamen. The government said troops rounded up 62 Palestinians and other foreigners in the camps during the operation.

Bombs reported in Sidon
Meanwhile, six bombs exploded in rapid succession in the Israeli-occupied port of

Sidon around midnight on Tuesday night and local radio stations said six Lebanese were wounded.

In Beirut, the government ordered the leftist newspaper 'As-Safir' to suspend publication for one day because an editorial on Tuesday had accused President Gemayel's administration of bias in favour of Christian militias.

The state radio said the bombs went off in various Sidon neighbourhoods within a space of 10 minutes, prompting Israeli troops to seal off the blast scenes and make several overnight arrests.

The radio said it could not be determined whether any Israeli patrol was affected by the explosions, which resulted in the hospitalization of six Lebanese residents with various shrapnel injuries.

The Israeli command in Tel Aviv said it has no information on the blasts reported in Sidon. But it said an overnight roadside explosion very lightly injured two Israeli soldiers 1.5 kilometres south of Lake Qaroun in Lebanon's western Bekaa Valley.

Israeli official statements have blamed the surge of anti-Israeli violence in recent days in Southern Lebanon on guerrillas, though they have not specified the nationality. Lebanon's Shi'ite political and religious leaders have been publicly exhorting Shi'ite Muslims, who make up the majority of the population in the south, to revolt against Israeli occupation.

Strike closes Eilat down

EL AVIV (AP) — The southern tourist resort and port city of Eilat went on general strike on Wednesday for the second time in a month to protest rising unemployment, as the treasury was reported to be planning massive cuts in state funding for education, as labour disputes continued throughout the country.

About 4,500 postal workers went on strike on Tuesday to demand higher wages, paralysing postal services. The Jerusalem labour court ordered them back to work on Wednesday at the request of the Communications Ministry, so that old-age pensioners could be paid their monthly pensions. The court is to review the dispute after Thursday.

But many of the workers did not return to their jobs as ordered, claiming the court had not given them enough time. Work slowdowns in tax offices continued, cutting off the flow of tax money to the treasury.

Eilat shut down completely, with only emergency service still running. Shops, schools and offices were closed. The city of 20,000 remained in contact with the rest of the country only by telephone and road, because the airport was on strike. Thousands of Eilat residents demonstrated at the entrance to the city in protest against the government's decision to close the nearby Timna copper mines, one of the city's major sources of employment. The closure would throw about 300 persons out of work.

Eilat Mayor Rafi Hochman said in a radio interview that the government was not doing enough to help the city's economic crisis, and that all the city's population identified with the protest.

Mehdi criticises PLO leader for meeting with Mubarak

By Khader Mansour
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — The visit of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to Cairo and his talks with President Mubarak will widen the divisions among Palestinians and among Arab states, says a top American-Arab leader. Dr. Mohammad Mehdi, President of AP to AP, told The Star in an interview that the visit would in no way serve the Palestinian cause and peace.

Dr. Mehdi was in Amman on his way back to the United States after an effort to mediate between the US and Syria for the release of Robert Goodman, an American pilot captured by Syria during an air raid over Syrian position in Lebanon. He said he and his colleague Muayyad Shaheen had taken their initiative "in our capacity as loyal American-Arabs and in response to the anxiety of the American people."

Although it was a private initiative, he said it had the support of the US State Department. "We held lengthy meetings with the head of the Middle East desk at the State Department, with the American ambassador to Syria, Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam and other top Syrian officials, who all expressed their appreciation of the motives behind our mediation."

But, although the Syrian side plainly expressed its readiness to release Goodman in exchange for a pledge to stop raids on Syrian positions, the American side was not forthcoming. "The Syrian authorities felt that President Reagan has failed to show good intentions on this subject," he said, adding that his opinion Mr. Reagan is more interested in his presidential re-election campaign than in securing Goodman's release.

Ghali said Arafat's stop in Cairo had great political significance.

"The legitimate Palestinian leadership is moving in the direction of peaceful political struggle, and talks and negotiations as the method to provide the Palestinians with their national rights," he said.

Following his forced evacuation from Tripoli, north Lebanon, Arafat stopped in Cairo last Thursday to meet Mubarak before continuing his trip by ship to North Yemen where he is now holding talks with Palestinian military officials.

In his prognostications for 1984, Osama El-Baz, top political aide to Mubarak, told the weekly magazine 'Al-Mussawwar' he expected the new year to witness a new chapter in peaceful efforts to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

For such efforts to bear fruit, he said, Jordan, the PLO and Syria should participate in peace negotiations.

"Such efforts need not be based on any single initiative or proposal for a settlement," El-Baz said.

He suggested that it may be possible to constructively wed President Ronald Reagan's peace initiative, that Arab-Fox summit plan and a French-Egyptian draft resolution now pending before the UN Security Council.

The Reagan proposal, announcing on 1 September 1982, calls for Palestinian self-rule in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza in association with Jordan. The 1982 Arab plan provided for an independent Palestinian state and contained implicit recognition of Israel's right to exist in peace. The Egyptian-French formula called for Palestinian self-determination.

There is no alternative to a direct American-Palestinian dialogue in the coming few months because this would contribute to the success of peace efforts, El-Baz said, forcefully reiterating a long-standing Egyptian call.

El-Baz said he did not anticipate any major developments in bilateral relations with Israel in 1984.

"There may be some ups and downs but this would not affect the mutually-accepted relationship of peace," he said.

Egypt and Israel signed a peace treaty in 1979 and exchanged ambassadors in 1980. But relations soured following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June 1982. Egypt recalled its ambassador to Israel in September 1982 in protest. Minister Ghali has repeatedly described the state of Israeli-Egyptian relations since as "cold peace."

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Ghali, El-Baz predict important new events

CAIRO (AP) — Butros Ghali, Egypt's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said in an interview published on Wednesday that 1984 will witness far-reaching developments in presently severed diplomatic ties between Egypt and Arab countries.

Ghali told the weekly magazine 'Akher Saa' that Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat's meeting with President Hosni Mubarak last week was the opening of a new era in Egyptian-Arab relations.

"I am sure that the year 1984 will see far-reaching developments in relations between Egypt and the majority of Arab countries," Ghali said.

The PLO and 17 Arab states severed ties with Egypt following its peace treaty with Israel in 1979. Since Mubarak became president in 1981, relations with some Arab countries have gradually improved. Ghali did not indicate whether or not the developments he spoke of would mean a complete restoration of diplomatic ties.

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jordan

Jordan, Egypt re-establish their commercial links

By Amal Ghandour
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — Egyptian Minister of Trade and Industry Mustafa Al Said completed his six day visit to Jordan this week with the signing of a new trade protocol between the Jordanian and the Egyptian governments.

In two press conferences before the actual signing of the protocol, the Egyptian minister talked about the nature of the agreement and future Egyptian relations with Jordan.

Mr. Said explained that the protocol reflects three improved economic contacts between the two countries, the industrial development which both Egypt and Jordan have undergone since 1978 and special rights accorded to Jordan and not yet offered to any other country.

The minister said that the new agreement, exempts Jordanian products from all types of import restrictions and Jordan will also be able to export up to \$10 million worth of commodities, such as pens, plastic products and apples, which are otherwise ruled out under the directives of the Egyptian advisory committees on imports. He stated that "from

the moment the protocol is signed, all Jordanian imports will be treated like any local Egyptian products and subject to the same production fees and consumption tax."

Mr. Said said that "Egypt's industrial advances and self sufficiency in many products make it very difficult for Jordanian imports, to be accepted by the advisory committees but Jordan's industrial complex still needs certain Egyptian products. So, in order for us to engage in mutually beneficial trade, the agreement provides preferences to Jordan."

The Egyptian minister said that Egypt would be willing to import cement from the new Jordanian factory, which is expected to produce one million tons in its first stage of operation. He said that "Egypt imports eight million tons of cement each year and we will import Jordanian cement pending agreement on the price."

The protocol, Mr. Said pointed out, gives much importance to Jordanian and Egyptian trade centres. \$2.5 million in quotas has been allocated to each centre in both Egypt and Jordan. The centres will use the money to import products listed in

the commodity papers exchanged between them.

The minister said that there are also plans to form a company which will provide regular ferry boat trips between the port of Aqaba and the port of Nuweibeh on the gulf of Aqaba. This, according to Mr. Said, will facilitate the flow of trade between the two countries. A new road between the Suez and the area of Tabah in Sinai is already connected to the Egyptian port. The new sea trip and road travel will make the distance between Aqaba and Cairo shorter than that between Aqaba and Amman.

The minister also revealed that Egypt will guarantee that future transfers of money to Alla the Royal Jordanian Airline, will take a maximum of six months. (In the past transfers have taken longer than 11 to 12 months). Mr. Said said that the Jordanian and Egyptian governments have agreed to set up an agreement under which both Egypt Air and Alla would be permitted to increase their flights during the busy seasons. The two airlines would be able to charter additional flights without having to receive permission from the concerned authorities.

Asked if such trade agreements opened the door for the resumption of diplomatic

relations between Egypt and the Arab world, Mr. Said said that "Egypt always hopes for closer relations with the Arab countries."

Commenting on the Camp David accords and reasons for strained economic relations with Israel, the minister said that "there is a reluctance among Egyptian businessmen to deal with Israel because of Israel's recent actions." He added that "Egypt itself has withdrawn its ambassador from Israel as a sign of its opposition to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, its aggressive settlement policy on the West Bank and its denial of Palestinian rights."

Mr. Said maintained, though, that the current tension between Israel and Egypt does not compromise what the Camp David accords have achieved. He said "Egypt's new diplomatic approach has led to the return of Sinai, while the other Arab countries cannot name one accomplishment."

The minister expressed his support for Mr. Yasser Arafat's meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. He affirmed that it is time for serious Arab peace endeavours, and urged talks between the PLO and Jordan, with the whole Arab world unified behind them.

Huge Zarqa River basin project starts

By Kamal Barham
Special to The Star

AMMAN — Work began in mid-December on a huge soil conservation and farm development project in the Zarqa River basin, to cover an area of 3.8 million dunums over the next few years. The project, which is receiving West German technical support, is the result of years of planning and studies which started while the King Talal Dam was being built between 1973 and 1978; and were not completed until August 1983.

The King Talal Dam has been losing 2.5 per cent of its storage capacity each year from the accumulation of silt, says Mahmoud Al-Junaidi, director of the Zarqa Basin project. In an interview with The Star, he said the aims of the project are to prevent such siltation; to preserve the soil on the surrounding hills and find the best ways to use it. The Agriculture Ministry will be working directly with small farmers and carrying out other large-scale works to "change

the face of farming" in the area, he said.

The first study of the scheme was done by the German technical aid agency in 1977, covering the landscaping aspects of the work. Another study in 1981, with the aid of the Arab Organization of Agricultural Development, looked at the development of infrastructure. The programme covers the agricultural area extending from Amman north to the town of Sakib, bounded on the east by Jerash and on the west by the King Talal Dam reservoir.

Boosting production

Using agricultural extension workers to assist 6,000 farmers in the project, the ministry hopes to adjust their crop planting and harvesting schedule to introduce the cultivation of pulses (such as lentils and chick-peas); to introduce mechanised methods, and modernise tilling procedures. Mr. Junaidi predicts that the production of wheat and barley will double following these changes, and that 60-90 kilograms per dunum of lentils and chick-peas may be produced.

In gardening and horticulture, the ministry hopes to introduce



Terracing and afforestation will help preserve the soil on hills surrounding the King Talal Dam

better fertilisers, increase the density of trees and increase the variety of plants cultivated. Production is expected to grow by 100 kilos per dunum in high rainfall areas and 70-80 kilos in regions with low rainfall.

Other objectives include a 40 per cent reduction in labour requirements by mechanisation and new ploughing methods. This will require building 120 kilometres of asphalt roads and 16 kilometres of dirt roads. Farmers will be provided with incentive loans and basic requirements including fertiliser and seed; while marketing facilities will also be improved.

Forestry and roads

In addition to the farm-level work, which will be based on in-

dividual plans drawn up and agreed upon between the government and each farmer, there are two other sub-projects. The first of these covers forestry and rangeland. It aims to afforest 35,000 dunums of land, to improve 35,000 dunums of grazing land and improve existing forests over an area of 70,000 dunums.

The last sub-project aims at stabilising the river and opening roads. Stabilisation of the 50-kilometre river course is based on the erection of dams and planting certain kinds of trees, Mr. Junaidi said.

All the work is based on a general survey that has covered the whole project area and classified it into regions of differing productive potential. This survey is the basis of the individual farm

plans and of working maps that will be kept by the ministry for future use. The basic division is between low and high-rainfall areas; and work has now started in two pilot villages; Mustaba in a high-rain area and Hammeed village, with low average annual rainfall.

Meanwhile, studies are continuing on the application of the larger project in the 820,000-dunum lower-altitude area. This area contains about 140,000 people in 6,000 farming families, Mr. Junaidi said. They own an average of 20 dunums for each farm in high-rain areas and 126 dunums in low-rain districts. Most of the region, 52 per cent of its surface, receives 300-500 millimetres of rain a year.

Mr. Junaidi said that the biggest requirement for the project's success, the individual commitment of the farmers, "is a necessity we have to create. For our part, we shall provide incentives and technical advice. A school will be established for the maintenance of machinery and its proper use. Local technical and administrative cadres are being prepared," he said.

The main advantage as far as the farmer is concerned is that the ministry will co-operate with him on a voluntary basis and he will participate in the planning process. Ancillary benefits may include curbing migration from rural to urban areas; growth of a local agricultural tools industry and general environmental improvement.

VARTA

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Happy New Year

Jordan shows off its hospitals to Chinese team

By Joyce Niles
Special to The Star

AMMAN — Leading members of Jordan's medical establishments were impressed with the accomplishments achieved in many areas of treatment as described this week by a delegation of five of China's outstanding medical experts. Chinese experts in microsurgery, the head of a leading academy of surgery, and top men in other fields toured and lectured in Al-Bashir Hospital, and the King Hussein Medical Centre. They also visited the Jordan University Hospital, the university's Faculty of Medicine and Queen Alla Heart Institute, in a week-long stay in Jordan at the invitation of the Ministry of Health.

Dr. Mahdi Abu Dahab, Director-General of Al-Bashir Hospital, told The Star, "The medical services in China have, according to their statistics, completely eradicated leprosy, smallpox and parasitic diseases and other serious illnesses. They have also managed to dramatically reduce the incidence of other communicable diseases, sometimes to as much as one-fifth of the previous numbers."

The Chinese team spoke at length on this subject in a lecture to Health Ministry staff last Saturday at Al-Bashir Hospital. China's medical services and their accomplishments are of great interest to Jordanians because of current efforts to upgrade the same type of services within the country. Last year the ministry held training courses for nurses, assistant nurses, paramedics and all other workers in primary health care services.

The visitors also spoke on successes in reuniting and transplanting severed toes and fingers with microsurgery techniques.

Acupuncture was also discussed. Acupuncture — the treatment of illnesses by the insertion of needles at key points in the body — has been a part of traditional Chinese medicine for hundreds of years and it is widely acknowledged to be effective in its many applications. Now the

Continued on page 5

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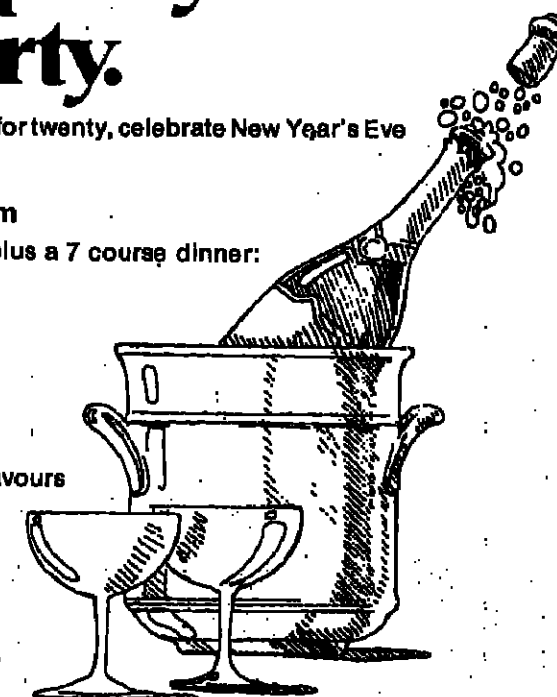
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Fund gives science awards

AMMAN (Star) — Three Jordanians were among nine recipients of the 1983 Abdul Hamid Shoman Awards, which were granted this year for the second time in recognition of achievements by young Arab scientists.

The Jordanian winners were Drs. Kamel Aljouni, Abed Rabbo Al-Maqusi and Kamal Abdul Fattah, who were recognized for their achievements in medical, engineering and humanitarian sciences, respectively. Dr. Aljouni was honoured for his leading role in founding the Hamad Hospital in Qatar, and in founding the Arab Medical Specialisations Council. He shared the medical sciences award with Dr. Nayef Emil Sa'deh of Lebanon, who founded the first neurology laboratory at the Lebanese University.

This year's agricultural science award was shared by Dr. Subhi Timayrek and Dr. Ismat Hijazi, both Egyptians, who worked in environmental protection. Another Egyptian, Dr. Mohammad Al-Samangi, received the basic sciences award for his research into the electromechanics of charged particles.

Dr. Abdul Fattah, who teaches at Bir Zeit University in the occupied West Bank, shared the humanitarian sciences award with Dr. Mas'oud Dasher of the University of Lebanon.

Candidates for the Shoman Fund awards must be Arabs working in the Arab world, below 40 years of age; must have contributed positively to scientific progress in Arab countries.

WHO plans regional training centre to be based in Amman

Meeting discusses environmental technology

By Joyce Niles
Special to The Star

AMMAN — Twenty-three countries in the East Mediterranean region were represented as concerned officials met in Amman's Amman Hotel to discuss the problems facing their combined population of 280 million people at the Environmental Health Conference last week.

One of the most pressing problems is lack of trained manpower in taking hygienic measures for water and food, in sanitation and environmental protection. Jordan is to be the site of an international training centre to school health administrators and educa-

tors from the area so that they may return to their own countries and build up their health infrastructure. Dr. M.I. Sheikh told The Star. Dr. Sheikh, an official of the World Health Organization's East Mediterranean Regional Office, served as chairman of the meeting.

"This is a very diversified region," he said. "It contains countries with some of the highest infant mortality rates and the lowest of per capita incomes, and also nations of great wealth; but lacking trained manpower within their own area, they must rely on expatriate technicians."

"All the delegates to this conference are sanitary engineers.

They came to discuss methods of improving situations and ways of solving problems in providing safe drinking water for all inhabitants of their countries by the year 1990; proper protection of food sources; adequate methods of waste water disposal and preventing environmental pollution from being the problem that it has become in the West," Dr. Sheikh said.

"There is enough technology available, and it often can be found in metropolitan areas such as Amman, but many times there is no care for rural areas. It is a temptation for those responsible to want the latest in sophisticated technology for their country. They have seen this piece of equipment in a western country and decide that they should buy it."

"Of course, the manufacturer will sell it them, but it may not be suitable to their particular situation, and is not what is needed in rural areas. So we have to make those people more knowledgeable about equipment so that they can make better decisions and spend available funds more wisely."

Appropriate technology

"Then the fellow, instead of spending, say, JD 10 million and putting a terrible strain on his department's budget, can get more useful technology that would only cost him JD 3 million. First, the money may not be available within the country. Secondly, there is no maintenance for sophisticated technology — absolutely none in rural areas — and thirdly there is a lack of trained manpower. So what we are trying to do is to use appropriate technology to serve the largest amount of people with the lowest cost."

WHO provides advice on other ways as well, he said. "We are also here to provide support for the health infrastructures within the individual member countries. By sending our own people as advisers or bringing key persons to be trained, we aim to strengthen the individual health ministries and departments, to make them more knowledgeable so that they may make better decisions for their country, to analyse their problems and find the best solutions for them. We also help to find financial assistance for the country's health projects, such as through the World Bank and other institutions."

"We are establishing these training programmes and, in the future, research projects for the individual member countries in the region to become self-sufficient. This is why we are setting up the regional Training and Research Centre here in Jordan. The centre will have an international staff with some of our East Mediterranean Regional Office members. We will bring key people from the different countries here to give them the expertise and methods to go back to their own nation and set up training programmes to fill health manpower shortages."

"We are training the trainers to train. We will act as a repository for information on technological developments in the field of environmental health, and we will do research to aid the individual countries to find and use a relevant technology to solve whatever problems they have."

Dr. Sheikh concluded.

Unique project to save English standard

RECE calls on independent language institutions to teach the teachers

By Kathy Kakish
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — A new educational programme about to be put into action will try to tackle one of Jordan's biggest educational problems — that of poor English.

The generally low English language standard of Jordanian students has contributed to a decline in the usually high proportion of scholarships offered annually to Jordan through bilateral and multilateral aid agencies. The Royal Endowment for Culture and Education (RECE) has initiated a project to tackle this language problem, by aiming at improving the standards of English language teaching.

RECE has sought the participation of several organizations outside the Ministry of Education that deal with teaching English as a foreign language. These organizations will design and offer the needed language proficiency and teaching methodology courses to a group of Jordanian English teachers selected for their proficiency. The approximately 140 teachers at the state compulsory and secondary schools, as well as public community colleges at Amman and Irbid, were chosen through a comprehensive survey by the Ministry of Education — the first of its kind ever to be carried out.

RECE, chaired by Her Majesty Queen Noor, is a private voluntary organization whose major objective, as defined in its charter, is to "help identifying Jordan's priorities in the training of skilled professionals in academic and cultural fields, in line with the country's developmental objectives." It offers financial help through loans, grants and scholarships with the aim of enhancing the qualifications of outstanding Jordanians to study abroad.

Since its establishment in 1980, RECE has sent over 20 candidates to pursue their higher education abroad in fields including educational teaching, regional planning, computer training, aviation management and theatre arts.

Turning the tide

Officials connected with the new project told The Star that, about the noticeable difficulty students have in mastering the needed proficiency level of English to qualify for scholarships abroad, RECE has initiated the idea of pinpointing the best English language teachers in Jordan. The hope is that through intensive training courses, they could contribute to turning the tide and improving the language standard of their students, and by extension, of future teachers.

The selection of the best out of the some 4,000 English teachers in Jordan was carried out through a survey conducted by the ministry.

The top 120 English language teachers of the compulsory cycle in Amman were selected. The first 60 have been chosen as course candidates, while the other 60 are reserves. The first 60 of the top 120 teachers of the secondary cycle as well as community colleges have also been selected as course candidates. Eight of these are community college teachers.

The survey brought to light several interesting facts about the school situation in both Amman and Irbid. It shows a considerable shortage in the number of university graduate English language teachers for the compulsory cycle. They averaged 0.01 per cent for Amman and zero for Irbid. While 80 per cent of the teachers in Amman for the same cycle, and 81 per cent in Irbid, held associate degrees. University degree holders among

the secondary cycle teachers in Amman came to 54 per cent, while the average for Irbid was only 0.09 per cent.

Forty per cent of English language teachers were found to hold university degrees in specializations other than English. This high percentage is seen as indicating poor distribution in placing teachers in the positions of their specializations.

The survey also shows that 87 per cent of English language teachers at community colleges in Amman are university graduates, compared with only 33 per cent in Irbid. Yet, 50 per cent of graduates also have post-graduate diplomas, and 17 per cent hold masters degrees.

Ninety per cent of the English teachers have long teaching experience — but 98 per cent have never attended any English language training courses.

Recommendations put forward by the survey report include the idea that future English training courses should take into consideration the qualifications, experience and previous training courses attended by candidate teachers as well as including new teaching methods. A comprehensive plan to prepare potential English language teachers would be favourable in the present circumstances, and qualified teachers should be assigned in the field of their specialization.

Collective courses

The courses in the RECE project will be given collectively by the British Council, which will deal with secondary and community college teachers; the Language Studies Centre, which will deal with compulsory cycle teachers; The Language Centre of the University of Jordan and that of Yarmouk University. The universities will hold courses for compulsory, secondary and community college teachers.

Although the independent centres have subsidized the fees and designed their own courses, the project will cost RECE around JD 11,000. The 66-hour courses

which take about 11 weeks to complete are free of charge for the participants.

Sources said that the decision to train the best teachers was ultimately not an easy one to take for RECE, for the limited amount of money, time and resources have to be taken into consideration, as well as the fact that the courses are short. The best solution would be to choose those teachers who are motivated and interested and will benefit from the courses, as candidates.

Because the British Council is to be the first to launch its course — on 2 January — well over a month before the other centres do on 18 February, it has not only registered its own participants, but has also interviewed and tested them to find out the correct shape for the programme.

The British Council has assisted RECE in carrying out the academic side of the project by providing the testing material to be used by all centres in assessing the participants' progress.

Mr. John McGovern of the British Council said that it was found through the interviews and proficiency tests that the participant teachers' standard of English appears to be high. The course programme designed by the British Council is balanced between what the council believes these teachers need, and what RECE would want for them.

Through the oral interviews, candidates had asked for part of the course to concentrate on linguistic skills such as pronunciation and writing. Accordingly, 25 per cent of the programme is to be devoted to these two skills.

The remaining 75 per cent will be used to improve teaching techniques and methodology, with concentration on informing participants of new teaching approaches and techniques. Mr. McGovern said that a selected number of the most successful participants from all the centres will be sponsored by the British Council to attend summer courses in the teaching of English in the United Kingdom.

Chinese doctors' visit provides opportunity to review Jordan services

Continued from page 3

Chinese are investigating it scientifically to learn exactly how and why it does work; and it is gaining worldwide scientific recognition.

In 1972 the Jordan Medical Association (JMA) discussed the topic of whether acupuncture should be practised within the country and decided that unsupervised practice should not be allowed until it gained status as a scientific discipline.

"This does not mean that the syndicate (JMA) rejected the theory, but only the unsupervised, unregulated practice of it," Dr. Abu Dahab said. "As acupuncture gains a more solid scientific basis it may be practised in the future under closely regulated, scientific methods in qualified medical centres such as the King Hussein City, the Bashir, or Jordan University Hospital, but not in general public practices."

Dr. Rizk Rashdan, the Director General of the Jordan University Hospital, introduced the guests to his facility, which began in 1973 as the Amman Civil Hospital, a referral hospital that dealt with difficult and complex cases.

In 1975 a royal decree made it part of the University of Jordan and now the 474-bed, 12-storey building houses teaching and training facilities for both the Faculty of Medicine and Faculty

of Nursing. It carries on research in addition to caring for 16,000 in-patients annually, 60,000 outpatients and treating 30,000 emergency cases per year. Sixty highly specialised doctors perform 6,000 operations each year and additional staff include 106 resident doctors, 60 interns, 250 qualified nurses, 195 practical nurses and 140 technicians.

Dr. Rashdan felt that his visitors were favourably impressed with what they saw in the hospital.

Dr. Kamal Aljouni, Dean of the University Faculty of Medicine, accompanied the Chinese delegation on part of their tour and commented, "We must not think of medical practice in China as all barefoot doctors and acupuncture. There is a lot of advanced medicine in all of the classical fields."

"China is ahead of, or as good as, the USA in the field of contraceptive research. They have developed and are using five or six contraceptive preparations that still have not been investigated in the USA. If I were an Indian doctor working in the field of birth control and received a research grant, I think I would go to China instead of the USA. Birth control is a major concern in China and they are working very hard in this field, and making progress. It isn't a problem in the USA or Europe."

Among the more interesting displays are batches of unique documents, manuscripts and photographs which reflect Jordanian aspirations, accomplishments and contributions throughout the country's history.

Activities celebrate archives

DLDNA plans to hold symposium on anthropology

By Khader Mansour
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — A week-long event now under way is intended to "acquaint Jordanian citizens with their national identity and pride," says its organizer.

Jordan on Monday started celebrating National Archives Week, which primarily includes the delivery of lectures, distribution of posters and other activities relative to the role and accomplishments of the Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives (DLDNA). DLDNA Director Ahmad Sharas, told The Star the idea behind this occasion, is to enlighten Jordanians on the value of national documentation in terms of history, culture and politics.

"National Archives Week goes back to the year 1979 when Jordan responded to the recommendation of the International Council of Archives (sponsored by Unesco), on the subject."

"The department has set up an educational campaign which will carry out its task with the assistance of the Jordanian media. The Royal Academy for Islamic Civilization Research, the universities of Jordan and Yarmouk, together with the Jordan Geographical Centre and other cultural institutions."

Among the more interesting displays are batches of unique documents, manuscripts and photographs which reflect Jordanian aspirations, accomplishments and contributions throughout the country's history.



Bethlehem residents in their traditional clothes, mid-19th century

Dr. Sharas said that the value of archives is not confined to administrative and legal purposes, but they can "play a basic part in our national planning and development."

"I feel I must pay tribute to the Austrian embassy, for the rare ancient manuscripts and other documentary instruments it has presented to our department on the occasion of the National Archives Week."

The celebration, which started on Monday, in Zarqa under the patronage of Mrs. Laila Sharaf, will bring its activities to Irbid and as many other Jordanian cities and towns as possible.

The department's next major activity is to be a symposium entitled "Anthropology in Jordan: The State of the Art." In early February, Dr. Sharas said that compared with other parts of the world and even with the Middle East, Jordan is poorly studied by

cultural and social anthropologists. However, within the last five years there has been a growing interest in Jordan by cultural and social anthropologists.

Last year two Jordanians took their Ph.D.s in Social Anthropology and are now teaching at universities in Jordan. In addition to Linda Layne, two other "non-Jordanian" anthropology students have conducted research in various parts of the kingdom during the last two years. Proposals have been submitted to both the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University for the establishment of a programme in anthropology. The DLDNA has established a collection of anthropological books.

Because the field is so new, he said, much of the work that has been done is still unpublished. A symposium at this time will provide a forum for the exchange of ideas between anthropologists.

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Four missions due in Egypt from the US

THE US Department of Commerce is opening a new office in Alexandria, Egypt to provide American businessmen there with referrals, representative and other services. Also under the department's auspices, at least four trade missions will go to Egypt in 1984. They will be specialized in the fields of electrical power, hotel and restaurant equipment, petroleum equipment, and telecommunications, according to Lionel H. Olmer, Undersecretary of Commerce for International Trade, speaking at a breakfast meeting sponsored by the US-Egyptian Chamber of Commerce in New York.

Olmer stressed the importance for Egypt of increasing its exports in order to make a dent in its enormous trade deficit of \$5.13 billion. To the US alone, which serves as a market for 12 per cent of its exports, Egypt is in deficit to the tune of \$2 billion a year on the trade account. The US bought almost \$600 million worth of Egyptian products last year, 90 per cent of which was petroleum.

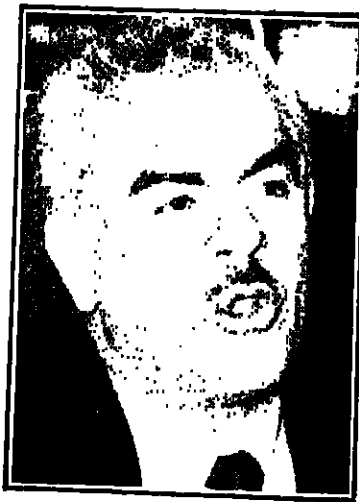
US investment in Egypt has been slowing down over the last few years but Undersecretary Olmer believes Egyptian officials have come to appreciate the importance of eliminating barriers to foreign investment and have been extremely forthcoming in their response to complaints from American businessmen about Egyptian red tape. Olmer considers the best opportunities for US investors in Egypt to be in the areas of construction engineering, information systems, health care, office equipment and agriculture.

Egypt, for its part, is trying to step up its non-oil exports to the US, the European Common Market countries and even to Eastern bloc countries.

— MidEast Report

Ministry has plans to unify property tax assessments

By Hamdan Al-Haj
Star Staff Writer



Salem Masa'deh

AMMAN — The tax burden on property-owners in Jordanian towns will not increase drastically when new measures now under consideration are put into effect, says Finance Minister Salem Masa'deh. Speaking in reply to recent reports of large new taxes about to be imposed, Mr. Masa'deh was quoted in the local press as saying, "We must bear in mind the promise made by the government not to impose any new taxes or to increase the present tax rates."

His ministry has decided to "unify" the bases used in assessing property values and levying taxes "in order to achieve equality and justice" following various disagreements between various authorities concerned with these procedures. The national government and local authorities have been co-operating in reaching final decisions.

Mr. Masa'deh said the press reports of the figures to be used in making tax assessments were much too high. They were based upon one early proposal which had been quickly rejected, and the real figures are only 30 per cent of those reported. Jordan has been divided into five municipal categories, each of which is split into four zones, with three types of building in each zone.

Figures are still under discussion, but he said a formula was "almost final" which would assess taxes at figures ranging from JD 2-5 per square metre a year

in the first class (Amman), and JD 0.300-1.000 in fifth-class municipalities.

The assessment of property values under the new regulations will be the first time since 1968 that some buildings have been assessed. A proposal has been rejected that would have extended taxation to every square metre of floor space in a multi-storey building; and it has been decided to tax only the built-up land area of a property.

While the new decisions will lower the taxes on many properties, the minister said, buildings that are still paying taxes at the rates of 15 years ago will have their fees increased. However, the committee in charge has decided to decrease the assessed value by 10 per cent in the case of very old buildings, in addition to a 20 per cent exemption for maintenance expenses.

ment ministry budgets are not drastically adjusted.

Amid all the conflicting reports the opposition Labour Party has warned against a loss of control over the economy. At the same time, it cautioned against tampering with workers' wages, saying that the workers "cannot approve an irresponsible economic policy." Nevertheless it seems that the Likud coalition government, immobilised by its own internal wrangles, has chosen to hit wages as the simplest way out of the crisis.

Meanwhile, the research centre of the Histadrut labour federation reported that the percentage of wages paid in taxes came to 54 per cent during 1983, compared to 49 per cent in 1977. Wage tax revenues constitute 18-20 per cent of the Finance Ministry's income, the report said.

The Labour Party also pointed out that among Arab workers, 80 per cent of whom work away from their homes, government services were much lower than those rendered to Israeli workers — and sometimes non-existent.

Import restrictions

The government is now moving to attack the country's giant balance-of-payments deficit, which is seen as causing many of Israel's economic troubles. Despite a foreign debt payment bur-

den of more than \$2 billion a year, the trade minister has issued an optimistic statement, saying that the recent agreement with the US to establish a free trade zone will reinforce the economy. Along with this, austerity measures have been introduced to curb imports of luxury items.

Israel now imports \$4.5 billion worth of goods from the US and trade in the opposite direction is worth \$1.4 billion, mostly in the sale of cut diamonds, the minister said. Financial assistance during the current fiscal year will be valued at \$2.6 billion, compared with \$1 billion of debt repayments to the US during the year.

The minister predicted that by 1990, Israel would be exporting \$6-7 billion worth of goods to the US every year, mainly in the electronics sector. He said Israel's total exports would exceed \$11 billion, making it "economically independent" by the end of the decade. However, he cautioned that the free trade agreement would face heavy opposition from US industry and labour.

Talks will begin during January on the details of the agreement in Washington. The minister added that according to an agreement signed in 1972, European imports of Israeli goods would become duty-free by the year 1987.

Holiday week

By Mamdouh El-Ghaly

AS BEFITS the last week of 1983, there was extraordinary fluctuation in prices and trading during the past five days, especially in the banks sector. Most bank prices increased as a result of the demand for Islamic Bank, Petra Bank and National Bank of Jordan shares. This movement was expected, since investors are after profit from dividends, while the owners of such shares wanted to get rid of them before any drop in prices with the beginning of the new year.

Over 900,000 shares, at a market value of JD 2.5 million, were traded this week. This business, divided among 1,100 contracts, was an increase of 26.5 per cent compared to last week. The daily handling average came to about JD 500,000 with a deviation of 47.7 per cent around this average or 9.5 per cent of the whole market.

Banks

The banks sector had 73.5 per cent of the market, a decrease of six points compared to last week. Five out of 16 banks had 84.5 per cent of the sector or 62 per cent of the market total. The Islamic Bank had 28.6/21 per cent; Petra Bank had 24.7/18.1 per cent; the National Bank of Jordan 22.9/16.9 per cent; Jordan-Kuwait Bank 4.3/3.1 per cent, and National Financial Investments 4/2.9 per cent.

Industry

The industrial sector had 17.3 per cent of the total market, an increase of 2.9 points compared to last week. Within this sector four out of 30 companies had 44.2 per cent of the sector or 7.5 per cent of the total. Jordan Petroleum Refineries had 18.5/3.2 per cent; Jordan Ceramics 9.9/1.7 per cent, and Intermediate Petrochemicals 6.3/1.1 per cent.

Services

The services sector had 6.5 per cent of total, up 2.4 points on last week. One company — Arab Investment and International Trade — out of nine in the sector, had 69.9 per cent of the sector's business or 4.6 per cent of the over-all market.

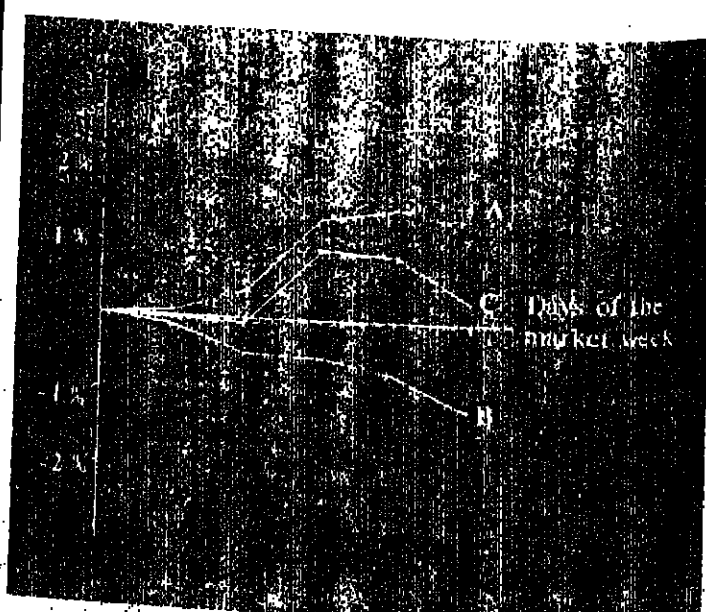
Insurance

The insurance sector had 2.7 per cent of the total — a slight increase of 0.7 points. Within this sector two out of 10 companies had 51.4 per cent of sector or 1.3 per cent of total. Jordan-French Insurance with 28/0.7 per cent, and Al-Quds Insurance with 2.4/0.6 per cent.

The shares of 65 companies were handled during this week, with price advances outnumbering decreases 26-18. Jordan-Gulf Bank closed at JD 2,900 up from JD 2,760; Petra Bank at JD 7,250 up from JD 6,900; Jordan National Bank at JD 3,710 up from JD 3,540; Arab Bank at JD 113 up from JD 108. Price declines were mostly slight including Arab Eagle Exchange Company at JD 1,500 down from JD 1,550; and the Jordanian Insurance Company at JD 10,300 down from JD 10,500. Twenty-one companies showed no change in their share prices.

The Star price index at closing time came to 328,420; an increase for the week of 1.1 points or 0.3 per cent. In the over-the-counter market about 400,000 shares were handled, at a market value of JD 250,000.

The weekly record



- Companies showing an increase in stock prices
- Companies with a price decrease
- The mean record figure

The obstacles ahead

Saudi banking: Part II of two

The foreign scramble



"The problem with Saudi banks is that they have never been through such a sharp and dramatic business contraction. And 1984 should be their most critical acid test." This is what a top-level banker revealed recently while commenting on the current money crunch in Saudi Arabia. Once gushing with petrodollars, the kingdom is experiencing now its worst money drought in 25 years. And those likely to help the kingdom bridge the gap are a string of 11 of the world's most prestigious banks operating behind the screen of eight Saudi-ized banks, and challenging the 'Top Two' Saudi institutions: The National Commercial Bank and Riyad Bank. Holding already 42 per cent of all banks capital and reserves, those Saudi-ized banks could take over control of the financial theatre within the next three years. It could be a lesson full of revelations for Amman, now moving on the path of Jordanisation of its foreign banks.

By Robert Pouliot

THE MOST serious challenge lying ahead for Saudi-ized banks is to weather the sharp economic contraction the kingdom has been experiencing since 1982.

Just like the Top Two, they are facing a dramatic slowdown in bank deposits. However, as interest rates fell, a growing number of Saudi depositors became sensitive to yield considerations and many shifted their funds from the Top Two to the more modern and attractive Saudi-ized money managers. One of several banks recording a net drop in deposits last year (1983) indicated that most of the setback came from demand accounts. If, on the other hand, it noted very few new loan requests, a growing share of out-

standing loans moved into the "slow moving" and "non performing" categories.

It usually takes up to six months of close monitoring before an active loan becomes "slow moving", and another three months before it reaches the stage of being "inactive".

Yet persuasion is about the only means at the disposal of Saudi banks to recover their loans, since court action is impossible and securing mortgages is prohibited. Once a loan is declared "slow moving", it ceases to be accounted on an accrual basis and is diverted to a "suspense account" where payments are recorded on a cash basis.

All Saudi-ized banks have been penalized by a surge in bad debts which, in turn, triggered soaring contingency provisions which

were expected to affect net profits in both 1983 and 1984. The usual pattern of contingency balances ranges between 1 and 3 per cent of the net (after provision) loan portfolio. Saudi Al-Hollandi and Samba are in the lower part of the range, while Bank Al-Jazira and the wholesale institution, Saudi Investment Banking Corporation (SIBC), both stand at the upper echelon.

Growth in profitability is probably a thing of the past for most Saudi-ized banks and those which have not branched out fast enough in the past years may even record a net drop in their after-tax profits.

This is where the new tax ruling by the government might help to remove pressure. Until late 1983, the understanding was that foreign shareholders would be taxed for their part of net profits, at the corporate rate of 45 per cent. But a significant relaxation came when the income tax department finally ruled that only the dividend portion of the profit was liable for taxation. And since the average rate of dividend payout ranges between 20 and 25 per cent, it means that the actual tax burden has effectively been divided by four or, put differently, that the tax bite was lowered to 11.25 per cent of the foreign partner's share of profit.

Until last year, only four Saudi-ized banks were liable to corporate taxation: Al-Jazira, SIBC, Al-Saudi Al-Hollandi and Al-Saudi Al-Fransi. Now, Saudi British has joined the group. Arab National and Saudi Cairo are following suit next year while Samba won't become liable to taxation on Citibank's share of profit before 1985.

Such concessions should ease the effect of SAMA's constraints on further increase of authorised capital. Although several banks have repeatedly argued for an urgent boost in their capital, the monetary authorities have refused to give it the green light since 1981. The only case where SAMA would recognize a genuine need for a wider capital base is that of NCB.

Nonetheless, because of such prospects, at least two Saudi-ized banks are expected to flex their muscles on the loan market in 1984. The Saudi British Bank, which is known for its lower than average deposit-to-loan ratio, plans to be much more aggressive in its marketing strategy. Saudi Cairo Bank, on the other hand, is in a much better financial state now to open up its purse.

The Saudi-ization factor
Another obstacle for Saudi-ized banks will be to increase substantially the share of their Saudi staff. As one official rightly puts it, "What really counts is the number of Saudi bank officers." Indeed, when and if the management contract with their foreign partner elapses, those managers will be the ones to make sure that the transition goes on smoothly.

Aside from Arab National Bank which is altogether fully Arabised, making its marketing strategy much easier to implement, the most Saudi-ized of all banks is certainly Al-Saudi Al-Hollandi with the following Saudi ratios: 39 per cent of all staff, 72 per cent of branch

Polytechnic qualifiers under consideration

THE EDUCATION Ministry is considering applications from construction contractors to be qualified for bidding in the project to build a polytechnic college in Tafleh. Ministry officials have not released any information concerning the applicants; but they say that tenders should be invited in about one week. It was earlier reported incorrectly that bids would be opened on 14 December.

ACC to build homes for JTV

AL-ARAB Construction Company (ACC) has been awarded a "new big contract" to build a housing estate for the Jordan Television Housing Association, the company says. The company did not reveal the value of the contract, which was signed on 5 December. ACC will build 62 villas for the association; construction duration is 18 months.

New opportunities

CHEMICALS: Unspecified quantity of Isopropanol for the Jordan Cement Factories Company. Details upon payment of JD 5 from the company's offices at Fuhels. Closing Date: 18 January.

ELECTRICAL MATERIALS: Variety of materials. Details from the purchasing committee of the Royal Jordanian Air Force. Closing Date: 5 January.

MARKET FURNISHINGS: Metal display cases, shelves, freezers, counters, etc. for the Abdali market of the Civil Service Consumer Corporation. Details from the corporation headquarters in Ain Ghazal. Closing Date: 31 December.

FURNITURE for the permanent office of the National College for Engineering and Administrative Sciences: Details upon payment of JD 2 from the college's temporary building in Shmelsani, near Sports City. Closing Date: 26 January.

LIBRARY FURNITURE for the Mu'ta University near Karak. Details upon payment of JD 20 from the university liaison office in Jabal Amman, near the Goethe Institute. Closing Date: 21 January.

LABORATORY SUPPLIES: For the laboratories and workshops of the permanent college building at the National College for Engineering and Administrative Sciences. Details upon payment of JD 30 from the college's offices in Shmelsani, near the Sports City. Closing Date: 26 January.

VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT: Amman Municipality wishes to buy 35 diesel trucks for rubbish disposal, with 14-17 cubic metre capacity, along with garage equipment including lifts and engine diagnosis equipment. Details upon payment of JD 100 from the municipality's tenders section. Closing Date: 20 February.

PUMPS AND GENERATORS: Two water pumps and power generators, for the Water Supply Corporation. Details from the WSC tenders section, upon payment of JD 10. Closing Date: 16 January.

SUBSTATION INFRASTRUCTURE: Construction of a road, enclosure and drainage system for the Amman South gas turbine substation of the Jordan Electricity Authority. Details for JD 10 from the Department of Supply, Jabal Amman. Closing Date: 5 January.

HEAVY EQUIPMENT: Dump-trucks, artesian well drilling rigs, stone crushers, multi-purpose packing machine and a drilling rig. Details from the Royal (ARMY) Corps of Engineers upon payment of JD 20. Closing Date: 10 January.

Invitation to South Korea

THE KOREAN Commercial Centre in Amman has invited Jordanian merchants to visit Korea from 18 September - 2 October 1984 during the Seoul International Trade Fair. The fair, which this year has the participation of 720 Korean firms and 280 foreign firms, is held semi-annually and provides an opportunity for direct contact with Korean firms.

managers and 31 per cent as bank officers. The second best would be the Saudi British Bank with 36 per cent of all staff being Saudis in November 1983 and about 30 per cent as bank officers. Most of its branch managers were also Saudis.

The others are Saudi Cairo (34 per cent), Bank Al-Jazira with 33 per cent and Bank Al-Saudi Al-Fransi with 30 per cent. Other Saudi-ized banks were about in the same bracket.

A serious problem suffered by most banks is the very high turnover of Saudi personnel. At least two banks actually recorded a drop in their Saudi ratio since 1982. Thus, it is hard to imagine that more than half of total staff will be Saudi by 1986 when most foreign management contracts expire.

Several banks have established their own banking and finance training centres such as Samba, Al-Saudi Al-Hollandi, Al-Saudi Al-Fransi and Saudi Cairo in addition to special overseas course and training programmes to provide greater exposure to foreign bank techniques and operations. Most banks also rely on SAMA's institute.

However, strenuous efforts are still required to make sure that a majority of bank officers become Saudis by 1985-86.

Another area of possible contention stemming from the current foreign affiliation of Saudi-ized banks is their ability to operate abroad more autonomously. Apart from NCB and Riyad, which have just opened branches respectively in New York and London, the Saudi banking system has no direct outlet abroad.

Hungary breaks the ice with production reform

By George Jahn

BUDAPEST — This country is pressing ahead with economic and social reforms unique in eastern Europe. What's more, say Hungarians and Westerners, the Kremlin is taking a benign interest in some of the innovations.

It remains to be seen whether some of Hungary's ideas for streamlining the economy, allowing private enterprise and a good measure of individual freedom, will spread to its communist neighbours, which still are wary of Polish-style troubles.

"The Hungarians are going ahead with their plans, they're not looking for Soviet approval," said one veteran Western diplomat.

Communist Party leader Janos Kadar, on a visit to the Soviet Union, told workers in a Moscow car factory there is a need for increased participation of workers in economic planning, decision making and execution.

In the last few months, the Soviets have been thinking about introducing as many Hungarian economic models as possible, not only in agriculture but in industry and services too, said Marton Tardos, head of economic planning at the National Academy of Science.

The academy is close to the government, to which it gives advice on key economic matters.

"If it's fair to say that the Soviet Union is not as cold to the idea of reform as it was ... then it's possible that rigid East German and Czechoslovak economic policies will change as well," said Mr. Tardos.

Moscow doesn't really care what we do, as long as we remain loyal allies," said a Hungarian analyst who spoke on condition he not be identified.

Mr. Tardos said in an interview that the Kremlin interest followed the change in

Soviet leadership late last year. Long years of cold neutrality in Moscow towards Hungarian economic experiments disappeared when Yuri Andropov succeeded Leonid Brezhnev as leader of the Soviet Union, according to Mr. Tardos.

Mr. Andropov was ambassador to Budapest during the 1956 uprising, which was put down by Soviet forces. He is considered here to have played a decisive role in the installation of the popular Kadar after removal of the repressive Stalinist, Matyas Rakosi.

Alluding to this role, a recent issue of the Hungarian "Orszag-Vilag" magazine praised Mr. Andropov for his "decisive contribution to the rebirth of our party, our country and our people."

"I have known Yuri Andropov for a long time. Old friends need few words to understand each other," Mr. Kadar told Soviet and Hungarian journalists in Moscow.

Of a workforce of about 4 million, about 200,000 Hungarians work at non-state jobs, either full or part-time. A recent ordinance raised the maximum number of employees allowed in a private business from six to 12.

While the Soviet Union is said to be following private sector developments with curiosity, Hungary's state economy has aroused even more interest, analysts say.

Since the early 1970s, Hungary has steadily moved away from the Soviet model of rigid central planning and responsibility, in favour of more decision-making on the plant floor or in the agricultural co-operative.

Increasingly, agricultural and industrial employees and executives receive bonuses tied to performance. Profit-oriented thinking is replacing emphasis on production for volume's sake, say Hungarian economists.

Unprofitable state industries which do not move with the times are targets for major shakeups.

The Csepel Iron and Metal Works combine, one of Hungary's major employers, was broken up last month into 13 units, each with increased decision-making powers.

The giant Tungsram conglomerate, which employs about 24,000 people and exports light bulbs and fixtures to more than 100 countries, went into the red late last year. As a result, its managing director was let go — and along with him those who couldn't change their way of thinking, said Atilla Kiss, Tungsram's economic manager.

While not disclosing figures Mr. Kiss, 39, said Tungsram will not make a loss this year.

The decision-making powers of plant managers have been greatly raised and the emphasis is on profit, according to Mr. Kiss. "We're still not doing it as well as those in the West, but that seems to be the way we're going."

Hungary appears to be moving towards more flexibility in politics as well. A recently proposed law encourages two or more candidates to run for parliamentary seats, with equal chances for Communists and non-Communists.

A Hungarian political analyst said privately it is theoretically possible that non-Communists could gain a majority under the plan, which builds on a little-known and seldom-applied 1971 regulation.

Non-Communists must accept principles of the Patriotic People's Front, a mass social and political organization with ideals close to the Communist Party, he said. Parliamentary debate is restricted to eight days or so annually, when parliament is in session.

Pluralism of a sort exists in other Soviet bloc countries, such as Poland, Czechoslovakia, East Germany and Bulgaria. But non-Communist parties play subordinate political roles defined by the Communists.

"The Hungarians have long wanted increased democracy so that their representatives are responsible for what they do," said the veteran diplomat. "In the case of Hungary (the proposed law) will be meaningful."

Mr. Tardos is more cautious, but feels economic changes have led to social restructuring, and with that, to a need for freedom of expression as great as can be realized under East European circumstances.



Janos Kadar, by Terry Waghorn

Hungary has its surprises and anyone who comes here with set ideas of eastern Europe has them fairly radically changed, said another Western diplomat. He spoke over lunch at one of Budapest's luxurious hotels built recently to cope with the influx of Western tourists — 2.7 million last year.

"It's moved a long, long way from the average stereotyped image and that's a healthy sign," he said. "I've no doubt that Hungarian (political) aspirations are something like what Austria has achieved."

But the answer must lie in Moscow, whether they'll even get part of the way there," he added.

(AP)

Labour action trend declines

THE DOWNWARD trend in industrial disputes experienced in OECD countries during 1980 continued through 1981; but this trend was not matched in developing countries where the decline in disputes was slight and the number of workers involved increased.

There were less work stoppages in the industrialized countries and fewer strikers; and working days lost through strikes also decreased. But the average duration of strikes went up slightly.

These findings emerge from a wealth of statistical data on industrial unrest collated in the International Labour Organization's (ILO's) latest edition of the 'Year Book of Labour Statistics'. They are based on responses to an annual request from the ILO addressed to governments of all member states. Replies were received from 57 countries.

Extreme care should be exercised in using the figures, particularly for between-country comparisons of the magnitude and relative importance of strike actions. Definitions, sources, scope and statistical treatment of data often vary widely from one country to another.

The Year Book figures show that in 1981 there were 25 per cent fewer workers involved in industrial disputes than in 1980 — a drop from 24 million to 18 million. At the same time, working days lost as a result of strikes decreased by 20 per cent from 1.14 million to 91 million.

Geneva conference brings factions closer

Lebanon's Arab identity defined; 'with a Western aspect'

By Godfrey Jansen

THE WEST, Israel and Syria were the losers at the first round of the Lebanese national reconciliation talks in Geneva. Incredibly, Lebanon emerged the winner, with all factions joining to take a first step towards restoring the country's shattered fortunes by turning its face firmly against the West and declaring that its identity is uncompromisingly Arab.

It was this unanimity among Lebanese factions that enabled Lebanon to come out on top. The West, specifically the United States, was the victim of the conference's unanimous decision on its Arab national identity. While it may seem odd that, after 40 years of independence, Lebanon should need to redefine what it is, it is particularly urgent because, in a way, differing concept of national identity were the main causes of the civil war and subsequent violence.

In 1943, because of differences between the founding fathers over the new country's role, it was necessary to define that identity. As a compromise between the pro-western Christian communities and the pro-Arab Muslims, it was laid down that Lebanon was an Arab country "with a western aspect."

The redefinition at the Geneva meeting — some of whose participants drew up the first definition — was categorical: "Lebanon is an Arab country, a founder member of the Arab League, and is bound by all the obligations of that membership."

So Lebanon rejected its "western aspect" — and this from the Arab country that has been most pro-western in every way. For Lebanon, as for most Third World countries, the West unfortunately is now represented by America, and America is seen as the ally of Israel, the Arab's enemy. Until last year, Lebanon as such did not suffer much from the Israeli presence; though it has a common border with Israel, it denied that it was a frontline or confrontation state.

Troop withdrawal agreement

All that ended with the Israeli invasion, when southern Lebanon was ravaged by the sophisticated arms supplied by America. In physical terms, therefore, the Lebanese suffered because of the US. They also suffered in political and moral terms when the US pressured Lebanon into signing the 17 May Lebanon-Israel troop withdrawal agreement, to which the United States and Israel added a subsequent clause saying that Israeli troops would withdraw only when Syrian and PLO forces pulled out. This diplomatic sleight-of-hand made the agreement a lop-sided treaty.

Syria and her allies in Lebanon grouped in the National Salvation Front, demanded its abrogation and made this the first order of business in Geneva. The Lebanese government and its Maronite supporters opposed this but it took only three sessions to produce a compromise. This came, obliquely, through the declaration on national identity — because, if Lebanon is a loyal founder member of the Arab League, it cannot make even a partial peace with Israel. This meant that all Lebanese factions agreed that the agreement was unworkable, unacceptable and had to be replaced.

The ball is now firmly in America's court. Washington has to try to persuade Israel to withdraw from southern Lebanon without any gains. If the United States does not do that, then it, and the West, will be a still greater loser. The United States failed in Lebanon by trying to play off too many of Lebanon's numerous factions against each other. Towards the end of the mission by the previous American envoy, Robert McFarlane, he was putting so much pressure on the Gemayel government to grant Syria a special position in Lebanese politics that the daughter of Lebanon's first prime minister was moved to say: "The Americans have sold Lebanon to Syria, like a shift." Yet within a fortnight, President Reagan, before the bombing of the marine base in Beirut, violently attacked Syria and Syria's friends in Lebanon.

Unanimity

Israel was a loser at Geneva because the unanimity, especially the agreement of



Lebanese President Amin Gemayel confers privately with the Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam during the Lebanon reconciliation conference in Geneva.

the Maronites, on Lebanon's Arab identity was a death blow to the Begin-Sharon dream of a pro-Israeli Christian regime in Beirut. On the agenda, the ending of the Israeli occupation of the south was given priority over the withdrawal of non-Lebanese — that is, Syrian and Palestinian — forces; in the final communiqué, the main task assigned to President Amin Gemayel was to find a new formula to end the Israeli occupation.

Syria's failure was because its observer, the Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam, tried too hard to impose the Syrian view on Lebanon. At the first session, the three leaders of the National Salvation Front — Suleiman Franjeh, Rashid Karami and Walid Junblatt plus, as a large bonus, the Shi'a leader, Nabih Berri — repeated the Syrian demand for the abrogation of the troop agreement. But three sessions later, first Franjeh, then Karami, then Berri retreated and opted for ignoring or freezing the agreement. Faced with a near-total Lebanese solidarity — Junblatt continued to demand abrogation, while not insisting on it — Khaddam abandoned Syria's main objective at the conference.

It was the surprisingly swift emergence of a consensus that made Lebanon come out well at Geneva. Lebanon, or at least its political leaders, is more united now than since the start of the Franjeh presidency in 1970. One of the two political myths nurtured by the Lebanese was proved to be true. The first — false — is that Lebanon's woes are entirely the product of foreign intervention, ignoring the fact that foreigners would not be able to interfere in Lebanon if there were no Lebanese prepared to serve foreign interests, either because of conviction or corruption. The second, complimentary myth is that if only the Lebanese were left to themselves, they would be able to find Lebanese solutions to their real problems.

Nothing seemed less likely at the frigid opening session, when some delegates pointedly refused to shake Gemayel's hand. The breaking down of the psychological barriers of hatred and family blood feuds came quite soon, in the second working session, when speakers frankly and even violently attacked each other. This heat melted the ice. Once the thaw began, two factors came into play to push delegates towards unanimity. The first was the power of the old-boy network.

Before the conference began it was noted, pessimistically, that five of the nine delegates were over 75 and hardly likely therefore, to undergo a change of heart or of mind. But this gerontocracy also meant that these men had worked together, as allies or enemies, in the intimate parish pump politics of Lebanon for more than 50 years. Brought together face-to-face, the sheer weight of these associations prevailed over political dif-

The second factor was the fact that 40 years of separate statehood has produced a distinctive Lebanese outlook, a national character which is very different from that of Lebanon's nearest neighbours, the Syrians or the Palestinians. The Syrians battled against this Lebanese character in vain. Lebanon's rediscovery of itself is a permanent gain for the Lebanese cause. While there will be further battles at succeeding sessions, when the problem of working out a new power-sharing structure will be tackled, the psychological success of the first encounter will help smooth the negotiations.

The political leadership of Lebanon, perhaps all too easily reconciled, discovered at Geneva that hoary truth, "in unity is strength." They may yet learn that in unity is danger, from those who have striven hard to divide Lebanon and to keep it divided. Israel certainly does not want a united Lebanon which, at Geneva, stigmatised it as the occupier who must get out first. What is good or bad for Israel is good or bad for the United States. Nor does Syria want a united Lebanon, because no sooner had unity been achieved at Geneva than Syria's Lebanese clients began thinking for themselves.

Hopefully the unity at Geneva may prove a real breakthrough, but the counteractions of the enemies of unity may reduce it to the brief glimmer of a false dawn.

South/Third World Media

Pakistan celebrates birthday anniversary of its founder

AMMAN (Star) — Last Sunday was the 107th anniversary of the birth of the founder of the state of Pakistan, Qaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. It was under the leadership of Jinnah that the Muslim League adopted the Pakistan Resolution in March 1940 which envisaged the partition of India into two sovereign states, with Pakistan comprising the Muslim-majority areas.

Mr. Jinnah was a man of peace who wished every nation peace and progress. In a message to the people of the United States soon after the creation of Pakistan in 1947, he said "we are prepared to make our utmost contribution to the promotion of peace and prosperity among the nations of the world."

His relations with the Muslim world was not found wanting. He is quoted to have said that "Islam is to us the source of our very life and existence and has linked our cultural and traditional past so closely with the Arab world that there need be no doubt whatsoever about our fullest sympathy for the Arab cause."

PALESTINE IN BRIEF

Egypt defends Arafat's visit

CAIRO — A top aide to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has said the visit to Cairo last week by the PLO chairman Mr. Arafat was a step toward a negotiated Arab-Israeli peace and called on the United States to help open a dialogue with the PLO. The Director of Mr. Mubarak's Political Affairs Office, Mr. Osama el Baz made the remark when speaking to reporters after a meeting with the Egyptian president to review repercussions of the visit. He said Mr. Arafat's talks with Mr. Mubarak were part of an Egyptian bid to generate a new momentum for peace. "We believe Israel is mistaken in saying or thinking that the visit to Cairo is an obstacle to peace," el-Baz said, referring to the strong Israeli criticism and protest to the United States for taking a favourable view of Mr. Arafat's visit.

Travel tax to go up

TEL AVIV — The Israeli government is to present to the Knesset (parliament) a proposal to raise the travel tax from \$50 to \$125. The decision was taken by the Ministerial Economic Committee, and it will replace a bill currently tabled in the Knesset by which the travel tax would be \$75 plus 7.5 per cent of the ticket value. Reports say the proposal may be opposed by the Liberal Party whose members have prevented the passage of the current bill. Meanwhile, the Panel of Airlines Operating in Israel has criticised the proposal. "It will be a heavy burden on Israelis travelling abroad—especially those going to Europe," it said.

Arab countries to export cement

● **DOHA** — At least five Arab countries including Jordan said they were exporting cement by 1985. The Secretary General of the Arab Cement and Construction Materials Union, Sadoun Al-Kasab, said until last year, all Arab states except Lebanon and Morocco had to import cement. But by the end of this year, a number of Arab countries would have met local consumption needs and be ready to start selling abroad, he said. Among potential exporters are Iraq, Jordan and Syria. The cement union was established in 1977 with 19 Arab states as members.

More money for Saudi agriculture

● **RIYADH** — The Saudi Agriculture and Water Ministry has approved seven projects worth \$16.77 million to develop agriculture and animal husbandry in different parts of the country. The largest project (\$5.73 million) based at Tabuk, breeds 6,500 head of sheep annually, followed by a similar facility at Qassim (\$4.78 million) to breed 3,000 head of sheep. Two projects at Qassim (\$2.82 million) and Darrah (\$2.13 million) will together help produce 1,200 tons of wheat and more than 9,200 tons of green fodder. A smaller wheat and sorghum scheme at Khari (\$1.95 million) will increase overall wheat production by 500 tons. A sum of \$1.23 million has been earmarked for the production of 540,000 broilers of Muzahmiah and \$1.09 million for fattening 14,400 head of sheep at Madinah.

IFAD session "successful"

● **ROME** — International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) President Abdelmuhaim Al-Sudary has described the 7th annual session of the fund's governing council as "very successful." The four-day session here last week was convened to discuss the replenishment of the fund's resources, and was attended by representatives from most of the fund's 139 members. Al-Sudary felt "deeply assured," adding that "there remains much to be done on both the first and second replenishments," but the session provided a solid reaffirmation of support for IFAD. He said the reaffirmation would facilitate solution of issues raised at the session, noting that IFAD governors had already identified the forthcoming issues before the February consultation. He recalled that most IFAD members wanted the fund's resources for the second

Iran recaps oil well

replenishment not to be below the current one, while even an increase could be considered. Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, chairman of the 19th governing council's seventh session, stressed it was necessary to complete negotiations for the fund's second replenishment to cover 1984-86.

Iran recaps oil well

● **KUWAIT** — Iran has recapped a damaged offshore well which developed a technical fault two months ago. The Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (Ropme) said here. The well, located within a common sea area between Saudi Arabia and Iran, was leaking gas together with small quantities of crude, but aerial inspection showed there was no pollution menace, according to Ropme official Abdul-Latif Al-Zaidan.

Iran increases farm spending

● **TEHRAN** — The Iranian government has allocated \$1.14 billion for national agricultural projects in next year's budget — 44 per cent more than this year. The Minister of State in Banki, said development credit for provinces would be \$2.59 billion, a 12 per cent increase, while spending on higher education and research would go up by 43 per cent to \$245 million.

Arab states protect steel industries

● **DOHA** — The Qatar Steel Company (QASCO) and Saudi Arabia's Al-Hadood Steel are looking into ways of coordinating their regional sales policies and defending their markets against foreign imports. The move follows a recommendation on protection against foreign steel imports in reference in Bahrain. Qatar's Industrial Development and steel conducting a study on the issue, which was also discussed at the Gulf co-operation council's summit early this month. A spokesman for the centre said plans were also being studied to increase Arab steel production to satisfy the region's future demand. In Arab countries steel demand exceeds domestic supply by more than 8 million tonnes a year, he said.

'What is good for the Arab world is good for America'

Baghal calls on Arabs to launch an information campaign in the US

There are dynamic Arab personalities in the United States who are making efforts to boost the Arab image among the American citizenry. One of such people is Mr. Mohammad A. Baghal, a former diplomat who once represented Jordan in the United States and now, the Executive Director of the US-Arab Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Baghal believes the Chamber could help change the image of the Arab to large extent. Star correspondent Carrie N. Thompson interviewed Mr. Baghal in New York recently. Following are excerpts:

"The purpose of the US-Arab Chamber is to promote and advocate business opportunities in the Arab world and to work for the mutual Arab-American economic interest," said Mr. Mohammad A. Baghal. He feels this leads to mutual understanding which in turn obviously affects the outlook of each regarding the other. Such understanding is above and therefore surpasses the political sphere, and in the long-run, according to Baghal, what is good for the Arab world is good for America, and vice versa.

Mr. Baghal stresses that the Chamber was established and still exists to promote business interests in both directions. He does not attempt to be a public relations firm. Indeed, he has strong feelings that the various Arab governments — all 22 of them ("a most difficult number to bring together in a consensus") should "pool their enormous resources" and employ public relations techniques in the US in order to better inform American citizenry about Arabs. He further acknowledges that such direct promoting of the Arab image falls more in the role of the Arab League. Nevertheless, the functions of the Chamber do include conducting tours (of the impressive, information-filled offices located in New York's World Trade Centre).

The chamber is expanding: to date there are branches in Chicago, Washington, San Francisco (with a sub-branch in Los Angeles) and there is one "in the South"



Mohammad A. Baghal

which is independently organized but with which Mr. Baghal maintains contact. He feels a large number of Americans are aware of the existence of the Arab Chamber and of the myriad of services it provides but he also admits there are far too many who are not aware of the ease with which they could secure, for example, a speaker for, as he explains, "the US is not Jordan; it is not Damascus. This is a large continent to cover."

As both an American and a Jordanian citizen, Mr. Baghal is frustrated by American laws regarding the punishment of companies which boycott Israel in order to deal with Arab nations. He remains aloof from politics but he is acutely aware of the problem. He quickly notes he is not an attorney or a constitutional authority, but he acknowledges that many legal experts

feel it is unconstitutional to prohibit boycotting if a company so desires and he is chagrined in knowing that many companies have had to pay penalties for choosing to trade only with people of their choice. He feels there will come a time when this is no longer the case. Mr. Baghal does not know if anyone has actually had to go to jail for boycotting, but fines have been levied. "Personally I believe that the American government has made a mistake and that it has inhibited the American companies in dealing with the Arab world; it leads to the loss of American producers (for the Arab market). However, being an American organization, we have to abide by the laws of the US," he said.

The services provided to Arabs by the chamber are quite well-known in the Arab world, asserts Baghal. Any Arab businessperson wishing to do business or even just gain information about the US knows how to contact the chamber. The US-Arab chamber is affiliated with each chamber in Arab nations and it keeps observers at the Federation of Arab Industry and Agriculture. "Many people come to us in the Arab world; many come when they are worried about business and exports in the US," he observed. At the chamber headquarters there is an extensive library pertaining to virtually every situation that can be encountered regarding Arab-American business relations.

Membership in the chamber is comprised of companies and corporations from both the Arab countries and the US. Individuals are not eligible for membership. Membership is not restricted except that it be a bona fide business, there are some Jewish-owned companies that are actively involved with the chamber. Membership fees range from \$300 to \$1,000, depending upon the volume of business that the specific company does in the Arab world. The bulk of the chamber's income does not come from membership fees however; rather, it is from certification rights from the Arab countries, which means that the chamber's experts certify all commercial documents and a minimum charge for this service is made on each occasion.

Membership in the New York chamber is about 600 companies; in San Francisco

there are 250; in Chicago, 250. And the number is growing as the image of the Arab world is changing.

With the continued growth and success of the chamber, he sees positive results. "I don't see that we have done our duty totally (in changing the image) but we are seeing more American Congresspeople thinking pro-Arab and that is really pro-America. And what is good for American interests is good for the Arab world. If Congress votes pro-America (rather than pro any one particular faction) we would have more co-operation from the Arabs. The Chamber is not political and therefore has no lobbying group in Washington but we do contact people; we do write cables; we try to straighten out things when we feel there are problems," he stressed.

"We have publications which we send to 30,000 people, to libraries, universities and schools. We also have our magazine which is distributed widely in the US. But to have a massive promotional campaign we need a lot of money, consistency and permanence. That is why we want the various Arab governments to join forces to launch an information campaign in the US on a large scale," he added.

"Mr. Baghal admits he is disappointed that to date these governments have not done this. But he is not pessimistic. 'I see (image changes) slowly, many Arab students are studying in the US are aware of the need to have 'westernized' public relations but unfortunately they are not in decision-making positions in their respective nations, yet,' he noted.

Most individuals would agree that long-range, versus short-term action will affect the most permanent change in the minds of Americans who have for so long stereotyped the Arab. If this is true, then certainly the US-Arab Chamber of Commerce is a major girder in this framework of change, and Mr. Mohammed A. Baghal is the driving force behind this framework. As his assistant and Research Director Ayten Heykal states of Mr. Baghal, "his, and therefore the chamber's, most important contribution is increasing understanding and bringing people together."

Anglo-Arab relations improve in diverse ways

By Len Rockingham
Star London Correspondent

LONDON — At an unofficial level, relations between Britain and the Arab world now reach down to every level of life. There is for example no longer any real surprise by the average Briton when he finds his children are going to school with Arab children, or that there is a Mosque at the corner of his street, or that his doctor is an Arab.

The leader of the surgical team, which carried out the recent, and unfortunately unsuccessful, first heart and lung transplant is an Egyptian and that occasioned no comments of surprise.

But some of the contacts between Britain and its Arab friends can be somewhat strange. One of the most recent and certainly most welcome is the link between Chelsea football club and Gulf Air. The airline of the Emirates will pay Chelsea about £150,000 over the next year and, in return, Chelsea will emblazon the name of Gulf Air across its players' shirts and some Chelsea coaches will travel to the Gulf to train young Arab players. Later, it is hoped, the Arab players will appear on the West London football ground.

A few years ago, this sort of sponsorship of the game which the British invented would have been unthinkable and slightly shocking. But now that the English football league is sponsored by a Japanese camera manufacturer, and radio

and television commentators have to remember to call it the 'Canon football league', the arrival of Arab sponsors is wholly welcome. After all, everyone is aware that cooperation with the Japanese is often a first step to a Japanese takeover. This happened with Scottish whisky, which the Japanese now manufacture under their own brand names.

Again in Leeds — which is about halfway between Chelsea and Edinburgh — there has been the strange case of the proposed link between Britain and the Arab world which will probably never take place. For those who do not know, I should explain that Leeds is a proud Yorkshire town, which has a left-wing labour council and also a sizeable Jewish population of some 14,000. Recently, the Leeds district Labour Party proposed that the town should be 'twinned' with Hebron, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Predictably there was an immediate outcry not only from Jewish leaders in Leeds, but also from the more politically sensitive Labour Party politicians. What followed was a typical British compromise. The Labour council agreed to defer the decision about Hebron while they first explored the possibility of twinning their town with another in Pakistan, called Jullundur, which is in the Punjab. Progress will be slow on this, however, since the latest reports from Leeds are that the councillors are still searching their atlases in a bid to find where Jullundur is. At least, most people in Britain know where Hebron is.



Africa 1983:

THE YEAR about to end could be said to have been an eventful one for Africa. There were no major improvements in the political, economic and social lives of people in most of the African countries. Following is an attempt to examine briefly some of the major events on the continent within the year.

Seventeen January Lagos, Nigeria: Hard hit by the fall in oil prices and a subsequent fall in government revenues, the Nigerian economy took a nose dive. Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation and once the richest, decided on this day to expect over 3 million 'illegal immigrants' from the country. These 'illegal immigrants' had come from Ghana, Benin, Togo, Upper Volta, Niger and Chad. They were given only two weeks to leave or face the consequences.

The evacuation of millions of people, some of them destitute within 14 days proved a difficult task indeed. Many of the affected people lost their lives in the process of evacuation while several others were injured.

Nineteen February: In Africa's youngest state, Zimbabwe, political animosities and tensions mounted between the ruling party of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe and the opposition party led by Mr. Joshua Nkomo. Many members of the opposition were detained in Nkomo's stronghold of Matabeland — some of them being killed. Fearing for his life, Nkomo escaped to Britain where he sought asylum for nearly 4 months. He has since returned home.

Eight June, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: The twice aborted Organization of African Unity (OAU) summit conference opened. The organization could not meet in 1982 in Tripoli, Libya as a result of differences among members, on the Western Saharan and the Chadian questions. Ethiopian Head-of-State Col. Mengistu Haile Mariam became a stand-in chairman of the organization. The two issues which prevented an OAU summit are still begging for solution. Could 1984 bring lasting solutions to these problems?

Nineteen June, Accra Ghana: A bloody attempt to overthrow the military regime of Flight-Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings was made. In the search and destroy exercise following the attempt 26 people were officially announced to have been killed.

July — Chad civil war which had been fought on two occasions already 'erupted' again. The bloody desert war between forces of President Hissene Habre and those loyal to his Libyan backed opponent Goukouni Oueddei continued for more than six weeks. An unofficial ceasefire came into effect following the arrival of the French legionnaires. It was good news to hear recently that both Hissene Habre and Goukouni Oueddei have agreed to meet and negotiate for peace in Chad.

Four August, Ouagadougou, Upper Volta: Paratroop Captain Thomas Sankara, dissatisfied with the policies of Major Baptiste Ouedraogo's pro-Western military government led a group of young officers in a coup. Sankara called for a people's revolution where power resided with the people at the grass roots.

August: President Samuel Doe of Liberia became the second African head of state after Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaïre to kick against the OAU-inspired boycott of Israel following the Arab-Israeli war of 1973.

Uganda protects her natural resources

By David Musoke

KAMPALA — Three years after the war that ousted Idi Amin, Uganda plans to back up its economic recovery programme with a national conservation strategy.

Once rich in natural resources, Uganda emerged from the Amin years (1971-79) with devastated wildlife populations, almost no tourist industry, high inflation, widespread poverty, shattered commerce and industry and a growing balance of payments deficit. A team from the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) recently visited Uganda and concluded that a conservation strategy was urgently needed; the economy could not recover without an inventory of the country's natural resources and plans for conserving and using them.

Ugandan Tourism and Wildlife Minister Chris Rwakasisi warned that lack of a conservation strategy threatened to further impair the economy. "We would be doing harm to our economic recovery programme and causing irreversible damage unless we institute machinery for the proper management of our natural resources." Uganda's population growth rate — 3 per cent per year — is one of Africa's highest; Ugandan cities are growing at 7 per cent yearly. Despite a campaign by the Uganda Family Planning Association, male resistance has meant that only 1 per cent of fertile women are using some form of modern contraception.

Threatened Ugandan resources include forests, soil and water — the keys to Uganda's energy and food needs. Vice-President Paulo Muwanga warned recently that Uganda could face serious food and water shortages by the year 2000 unless action was taken. The UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) estimates that Uganda lost more than two-thirds of its forest cover between 1961 and 1972. All that remains are 1.5 million hectares (3.7 million acres) of natural high forest and open savannah woodland, covering only 6 per cent of this once heavily forested nation. Uganda once exported mahoganies and olive wood; now there is too little to meet even domestic demand.

Ugandans meet more than half their energy needs through fuelwood, and demand is expected to grow by 6 per cent per year. There are already severe shortages in Karamoja and Ankole, where people often have to walk more than 10 km to gather wood. The cost of transporting fuelwood to the cities makes it expensive for the urban poor, but demand in Kampala and Entebbe is nevertheless expected to double by the end of the century.

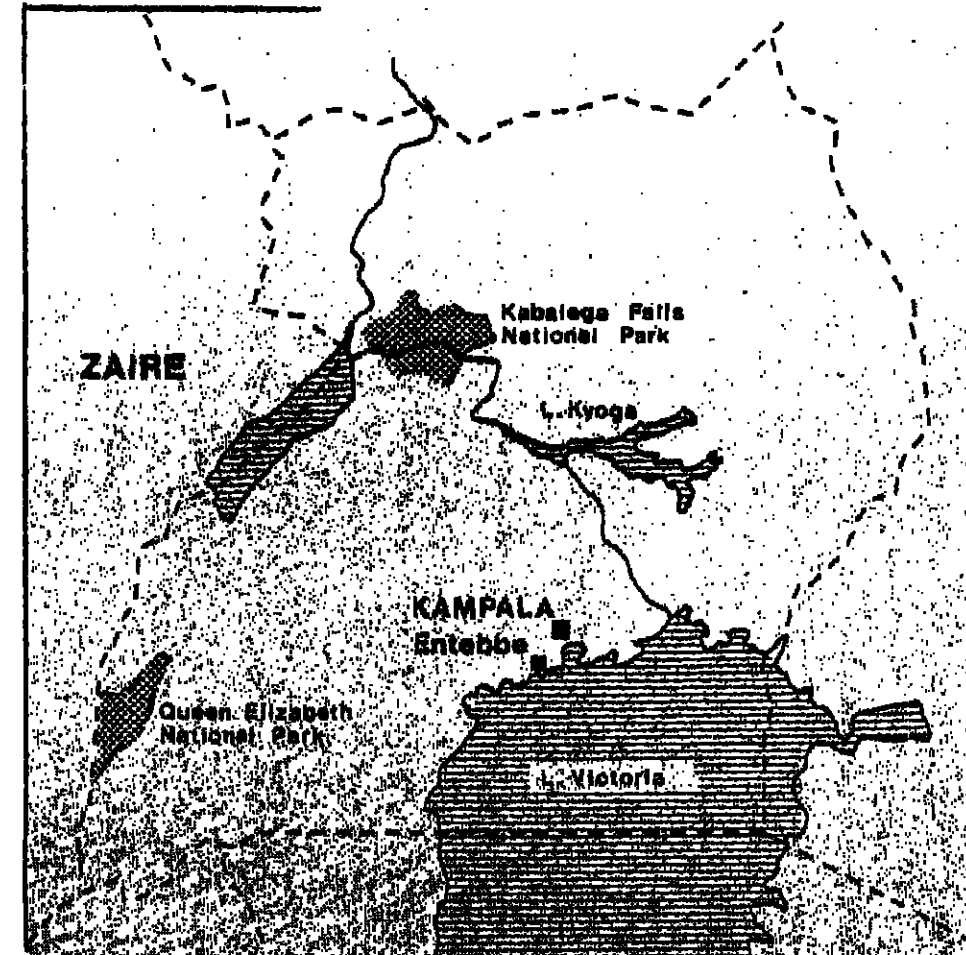
The clearance of forests causes flooding and has eroded soils in south-west Uganda; arbitrary drainage of swamps has cut agricultural yields; the implications of plans to increase the fish catch from Lake Kyoga have not been studied, and overgrazing is causing desertification in the east and south-west of the country.

Wildlife suffered particularly during the Amin years and the war that followed; and it is wildlife which draws the tourists. Before 1971 Uganda had so many elephants that many had to be shot. By 1980 there were 2,000 left out of a 1970 population of 30,000. In Kibale National Park alone, the population fell from 10,000 to less than 200. Uganda banned elephant hunting in December 1975 and all hunting in September 1979, but neither ban was enforced.

There were once 350 white rhino in Uganda. Poaching, illegal hunting and the spread of human settlement took their toll, and the animal was declared extinct in the country in 1982. In Queen Elizabeth National Park, the buffalo population has dropped by 75 per cent since 1969, and the hippo population was cut by two-thirds between 1977 and 1980.

Tourism was the third major foreign exchange earner during the 1960s, and was growing faster than the top two, coffee and cotton. There were 85,000 visitors to Ugandan national parks in 1971; in 1982, there were just 10,000. An anti-poaching programme, supported by the World Wildlife Fund, the German Zoological Society and FAO, has reduced poaching and encouraged wildlife to return in large numbers from Zaïre and Sudan where it had sought refuge.

Helped by an annual economic growth of 6 per cent (compared to an annual de-



cline of 8 per cent under Amin), some of the damage has already been repaired. Priority industries and services have been rebuilt; smallholders have been given incentives to produce foodcrops, and tourist lodges have been overhauled and reopened.

The inventory of Uganda's natural resources is a priority of the national conservation strategy. IUCN recommends improved planning and greater enforcement of existing laws to back up the strategy, which will be run by a body set up in the president's office in order to give it enough power to co-ordinate the activities of all government departments.

Earthscan



A REVOLUTIONARY car tyre and wheel concept in which the tyre wraps round the wheelrim instead of sitting inside it has been unveiled by German-based tyre maker Continental.

All-round advantages claimed for the system include 10 per cent improvements in wet roadholding, mileage, driving comfort and weight compared with conventional radials, a 15 per cent reduction in rolling resistance, a 15 per cent increase in the space for brakes and much less tendency to aquaplaning.

In a sudden deflation the tyre cannot leave the rim, as with a conventional tyre, and the new system is also said to be capable of running flat without significant damage to the tyre or loss of control for up to 250 miles at 50 mph.

The concept could be applied equally to cars and trucks, say Continental, Europe's second biggest tyre group.

It would be at least three years and more probably five years before the wrap-round tyre could appear on the road.

The Standard

Risk of superpower clash in Middle East increases

By Colin Smith

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — The risk of super-power confrontation in the Middle East has not been so great since the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, when the Kremlin threatened to intervene on the ground if the Americans did not make the Israelis observe the ceasefire.

Israeli military analysts estimate there are 5,000 Soviet advisers manning the new air defences Syria has received since its Air Force was shot out of Lebanon in September last year. The arrival of US Marines in Lebanon in September last year means for the first time, both super-powers have troops on the same turf at the same time.

The distance between parts of the Syrian frontier and the Marines dug in around Beirut airport is less than 48 kilometres in places. There have been reports, so far unsubstantiated, that Russian gunners were manning some of the anti-aircraft positions responsible for shooting down the two US carrier-borne aircraft hit earlier this month in a raid on Syrian positions in Lebanon.

Dr. Amnon Sela, who teaches at the Russian Studies and International Relations Department of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, thinks that even if these reports are true the Russians would be there as 'Syrians' and not as soldiers of the Soviet Union.

He points out that the Russians have never been particularly interested in the Damascus regime's aspirations for a Greater Syria based on old Ottoman boundaries. He thinks that its support is confined to Syria's recognised international borders in the same way that the US has often made it clear that it is pledged to safeguard Israel's security "but not Israel's conquests."

Yet the fact remains that there has never been a time when the Russians and the Americans have been so simultaneously committed to their respective Middle Eastern clients. When the Israeli Prime Minister Mr. Shamir returned from Washington this month with the agreement for what seems like a significant new Israeli-American strategic accord in his pocket, he seemed like a very happy man. "Israeli-American relations," he said, "are now in one of their finest hours."

Within the next two days both the Israelis and the Americans had bombed Syrian positions and the Russians were growling about "bandit raids" and promising to continue to support their friends. Since then Mr. George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, has helped to cool the situation, a little with some conciliatory remarks about the American attack being "an isolated incident" and not an attempt to impose a military solution. But he did not rule out the possibility of further raids. "We urge the Soviets to urge the Syrians to look upon Lebanon in a sensible way," he said.

The chances are that neither the Syrians nor the Israelis, both very independent-minded people, will be as sensible about Lebanon as their patrons would wish. To some extent Shamir's new agreement with the United States might act as a brake but the promises both super-powers have made to their clients (although it should be pointed out that Russia is not automatically committed to defend Syria if it is attacked but is obliged to make "top-level consultations").

(ONS)

Troops receive cash for every dead SWAPO fighter

By Godwin Matatu

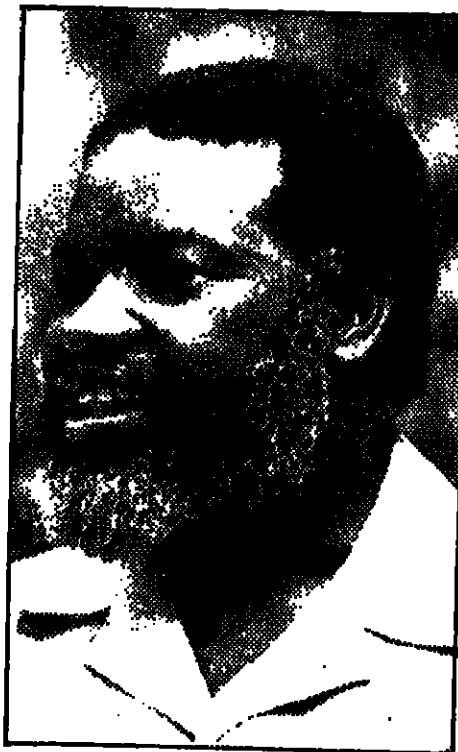
WINDHOEK (ONS) — South African military leaders are prepared to negotiate with Angola for the withdrawal of some 15,000 of their troops occupying about a third of the southern part of the country.

But senior members of the high command in northern Namibia emphasise that they oppose any talks on a cease-fire with the SWAPO nationalist fighters in this South African-ruled territory. In fact the South Africans, supported by some 10,000 members of the recently established South-West African Territory Force and a ruthless counter-insurgency unit called Koevoet (Crowbar), believe they have contained the SWAPO fighters in the north.

In his expensively furnished briefing room in Windhoek, Colonel John Bishoff, senior intelligence officer of both the South African Army and the local Territory Force, unveiled a large map showing the positions of SWAPO and Angolan troops in Angola with embarrassingly accurate detail.

The South African occupation of southern Angola has forced SWAPO (and the troops of the MPLA government in Luanda) to positions up to 320 kilometres from the Namibian border. The bulk of the fighting against SWAPO guerrillas in Namibia has been left to Koevoet, essentially an extermination squad that has been responsible for 82 per cent of all the kills in Namibia by the security forces. It is led by Brigadier Hans Dreyer and is directly answerable to Pretoria.

Koevoet is run along the lines of the former Selous Scouts in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) — in fact many of its officers are drawn from the Selous Scouts. Its forces, who number about 1,200, are 90 per cent black, about half of them captured SWAPO fighters who have been 'turned'.



Sam Nujoma — SWAPO leader

The rest are criminals or forces supplied by the dissident UNITA movement in Angola. They operate in 'sticks' of 50 blacks and four white officers and carry the same Kalashnikov AK-47 rifles that SWAPO uses. Their methods of operation are brutal. The courts in Windhoek are inundated with petitions against the excesses of Koevoet. Recently a 23-year-old Angolan member of Koevoet, Jonas Paulus, on trial for murder, started a Windhoek court as he reeled off an account of his career in the unit. He was paid a sal-

ary of \$300 a month. In addition he claimed that he was paid kop geld (bounty money): \$1,700 for every dead SWAPO fighter \$850 for every AK-47 captured and \$4,250 for the neutralisation of a single SAM-7 missile. He said he could not remember how many people he had killed since he joined Koevoet.

The South African Army, which has a campaign to 'win the hearts and minds' of the people in this operational region, appears to approve of Koevoet's methods. The officer commanding the 20 Military Sector in Kavango, Colonel Ferreira, said at his headquarters: "People do not like Koevoet because they are tracking down SWAPO effectively."

Col. Ferreira was the commanding officer of 32 Battalion based near the small town of Bagani on the Caprivi Strip until recently. The battalion is made up of mercenaries from places as far apart as Argentina and Ireland. Its core consists of former guerrillas of the third Angola nationalist movement, the defeated National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA) led by Mr. Holden Roberto.

The battalion operates exclusively in Angola against SWAPO bases as well as against Angolan government troops. Like Koevoet, it is an autonomous force and is not answerable to the command here. SWAPO fighters are still able to infiltrate the operational areas in Namibia. According to South African sources, there are four 120-man SWAPO detachments in Central Ovamboland and about 100 insurgents operating in Kavango. Sources close to Richard Kapelwa, the supreme commander of SWAPO forces say that there are over 2,000 SWAPO men inside Namibia.

It is understood that SWAPO takes a long-term view of the war. It has a special unit, not tied to any of the military re-

gions, which is constantly deployed in different parts of the country. According to informed sources, SWAPO also has a conventional force of about 750 men being trained at Jambo in Central Angola. It is this force that the South African military command here wants engage in battle. "We are bored, we want to fight real men. SWAPO are keeping their brave men from us. It's not fair," said Ferreira.

Nevertheless, the disposition of South African forces in the north appears to have been based on an exaggerated appreciation of SWAPO's military capability. According to their own intelligence, the South Africans estimate the troop levels of SWAPO to be about 6,500 men and of these 4,000 are pinned down in defensive and logistic roles protecting SWAPO refugee camps and military bases inside Angola.

A respected military analyst in Windhoek observed that the deployment of South African forces has little to do with SWAPO and more to do with the desire of the top brass in the South African military to retrieve the honour they lost when they were defeated by the combined Cuban and Angolan troops in Angola in 1975. The cost of the war is high for the South Africans. A rule-of-thumb calculation suggests that it costs \$1,800,000 for every SWAPO guerrilla killed and the whole military effort here amounts to some \$2,500,000 a day.

The military here think it is worth it; the war keeps the Angolans and SWAPO on tenterhooks, it provides the South African conscripts with real combat training and it places South Africa at the head of the "anti-Communist crusade in southern Africa."

Jackson challenges 'anti-black' presidential rules

By Miguel Acoca

NEW ORLEANS — The Rev. Jesse Jackson is openly challenging the Democratic Party's leadership by demanding changes in the rules for selecting delegates to the presidential nomination convention. At present, he says, the rules are unfair to blacks.

His attack, which began in earnest last week, has focused attention not just on the outspoken black civil rights leader's campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination, but also on the Democratic Party's racial policies.

The race issue could also have an effect on former Vice-President Walter Mondale, the front-runner and current favourite to become the party's standard bearer at the Democratic convention next July in San Francisco.

The controversy has cracked attempts by the Democratic National Committee to present a unified front by Jackson, Mondale and the six other candidates on matters of general policy. The flamboyant Jackson is the only black seeking the Democratic presidential nomination.

He and his supporters have made it clear that if the party's leadership does not change rules that are 'discriminatory' towards blacks, women and assorted minorities, they will contest the seating of delegates chosen under the present system. The threat raises the possibility of major internal struggle in coming months.

Mr. Charles Mannatt, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, has stated that the party will not change the rules — which are being contested by other candidates on different grounds — for any of the eight speaking the nomination. Jackson's assault, if successful, would not only contest Mondale, but would make the contest easier for Senator John Glenn and others who want the nomination. It would also give Jackson considerable bargaining power within the party and the opportunity to influence not only the nomination but the party's platform.

In private and in public, Jackson has repeatedly said this past week that the



The Rev. Jesse Jackson

present rules, adopted in 1982, give control of the nominating process to 'party bosses' who can choose 'who they think would be the best nominee against the Republicans.' He and his advisers contend that the system, which was designed to prevent the nomination of another Jimmy Carter, is dominated by the white Democratic establishment.

The National Committee and Mondale's campaign advisers, fearful of the damage that a drive against the party's racial policies would have on Democratic strategy for defeating the Republicans in next year's general elections, had appealed to Jackson to use his candidacy to inspire black voter registration.

But Jackson rejected the appeals and is presenting a detailed list of rules revisions to the National Committee. He appears to have the support of many elected black officials, particularly in the South, where black voters are a substantial force.

Observer News Service

VIEWPOINT

A strong defence for Arafat

By Ya'coub Jaber

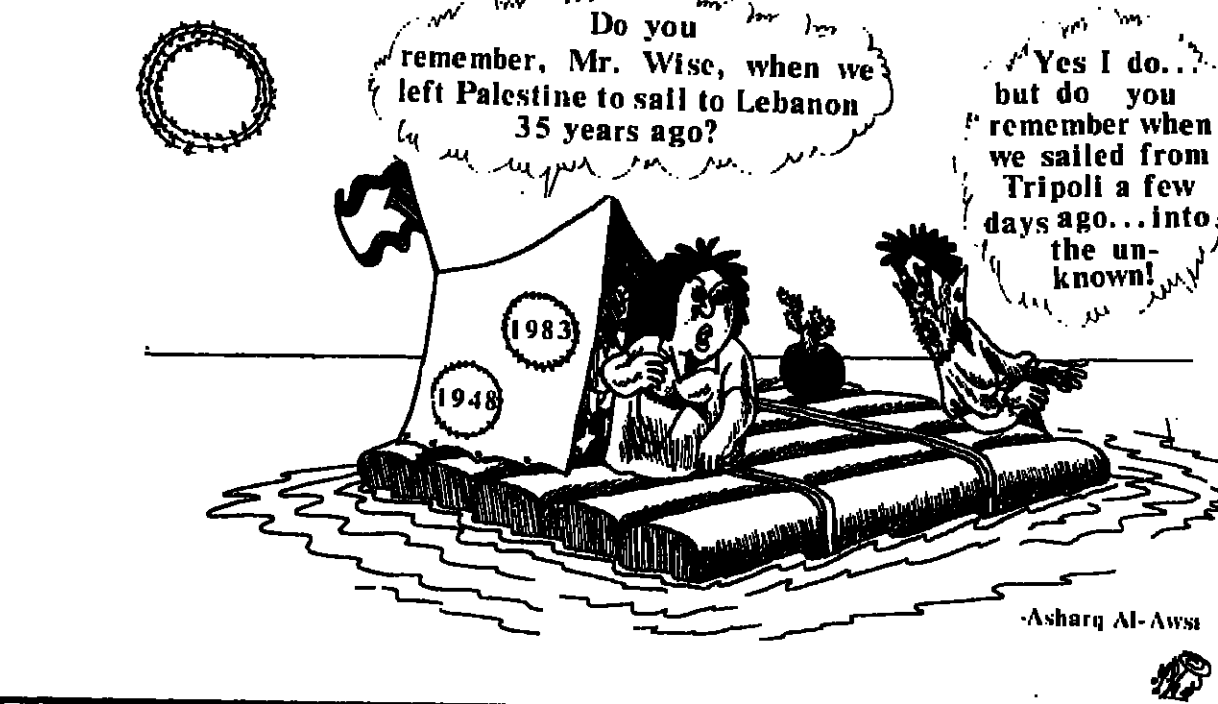
THE CONTROVERSY which has raged around PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat since his visit to Cairo last week and his meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is a natural reaction to a step of major significance. By the visit, Mr. Arafat has not only violated unanimous decisions of his own organization, but also the Arab majority opinion which endorsed a political and diplomatic boycott of Egypt until it rescinds its peace treaty with Israel. He thus will need to put up a strong defence of his move before his colleagues in the Fatah movement.

Nevertheless, Mr. Arafat will not find difficulty in defending his contacts with the Egyptian leadership. He must have prepared carefully for the visit and calculated the risks involved long before he made it. The PLO leader is not known for impromptu moves and hasty decisions.

One of the main elements in prompting him to make the visit could be strong hints about a forthcoming US shift in dealing with the PLO under his leadership. The US administration welcomed the Mubarak-Arafat meeting.

Al-Anba, in Kuwait writes that Mr. Arafat's visit to Cairo was not a coincidence, and certainly not a crime; because Cairo remains a major capital for all the Arabs. The paper, however, calls on Mr. Arafat to abide by the collective Palestinian decision and act within the PLO's constitutional structures.

Al-Qabas, another Kuwaiti paper, expresses the view that Mr. Arafat's new course is full of risks, saying that politics leads only to negotiations, which in turn lead to concessions.



Middle East Editorial Opinion

AL-GOUMHORIYA in Cairo this week says Chairman Arafat's visit to Egypt will constitute a true beginning for re-unification of Arab ranks in the face of common dangers and challenges. It adds that the various reactions to the Mubarak-Arafat meeting indicate that Arab unity is a powerful element feared by those harbouring bad intentions towards this region.

"The Mubarak-Arafat talks should be seen as a turning-point in the efforts to restore the Palestinian people's rights and bring back stability and security for Lebanon," the Egyptian paper concludes.

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'Cairo not Tel Aviv'

Praising Mr. Arafat's visit as a courageous step, the Kuwaiti daily Al-Siyassa remarks that at their summit conference in Baghdad in 1978, Arab leaders took decisions against Egypt, the United States and Israel; but only the decisions against Egypt have been put into effect. It adds that Mr. Arafat "went to Cairo and not to Tel Aviv, and met an Arab president, not Menachem Begin or Yitzhak Shamir."

The United Arab Emirates newspaper Al-Fajr writes that Mr. Arafat's visit to Cairo and his meeting with President Mubarak were not surprising but rather expected moves as a result of recent events in the Arab region.

"The visit was a brave decision taken by a warrior who had resolved to destroy a barrier built by the enemies of the Arab nation to split the brothers. It is also an attempt by a freedom fighter to remove the Israeli flag from Cairo, the heart of the Arab world," writes Al-Fajr.

The Qatari paper Al-Raya calls for careful thought before passing judgment on Mr. Arafat's visit to Egypt. It says the painful and violent events which surrounded the Palestinian cause in recent months call on Mr. Arafat to reconsider his policies and attitudes. It adds that he has placed himself in a very delicate situation, but that he has done that in full realization of the possible consequences and reactions.

"There is absolutely no way to cast any doubts on the patriotism of Mr. Arafat or his dedication to the cause of his people," Al-Raya concludes.

In Jordan, editorialists view the visit as a positive step on the road to restoring Arab unity.

Ad-Dustour daily calls on the PLO to keep the bridges open with all Arab capitals and avoid exclusive alliances and involvement in inter-Arab differences. It says failure to act thus would keep the PLO a hostage to slogans and bargaining which do nothing to liberate the occupied land and free its people from the yoke of occupation.

Ad-Dustour also calls on the PLO to draw the necessary lessons from the current Arab situation, which has put the organization into its difficult position.

Al-Ra'i considers Mr. Arafat's Egypt visit a move towards rebuilding a united Arab front. It calls for intensified efforts to achieve this end, because "Arab unity is the sole course for restoring the usurped Arab rights and the establishment of just and comprehensive peace in the region."

Sawt Al-Sha'b daily notes that Egypt has always stood by the PLO, and Mr. Arafat's visit was meant to thank Cairo for its stance towards the Palestinians. It adds that the Camp David agreements do not mean, and will never mean that Egypt's struggle against Zionism is over. The peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, it says, has proved that Zionism and peace are incompatible; because the Zionists view peace as the imposition of their hegemony over the Arabs.

Israeli press

The Israeli weekly Yoman Hashavua', commenting on recent deterioration in Israeli-Egyptian relations, says: "After we restored everything to Cairo, the latter does not pay any attention to us. Egypt appears to be proceeding further towards alienation with us, as was proved by the insult directed to our ambassador in Cairo."

"Do we have to swallow this, and expect our ambassador to be expelled from Cairo soon? Or, would it be better for us to summon our ambassador home from Cairo before we become the laughing-stock of the world?"

Davar adds that the attacks on Israeli and Egyptian diplomats in Alexandria and Tel Aviv are signs of danger that should move both governments to action. "The assassination of President Sadat, the Lebanese war waged by Israel, the Sabra and Shatila massacres and the absence of an Egyptian ambassador from Tel Aviv are but signs of this painful reality," Davar says. Egypt's attempts to return to Arab ranks, in addition to the Israel-US rapprochement, will only push the situation into further decline.

Monifin writes that the agreement regarding an advance cost of living wage

payment "proved the soundness of the Histadrut stand and the failure of the policy of government." It is "stupid" to think that economic problems may be solved through hiking prices on a monthly basis, the paper says. "What is going on inside the Israeli economy is flaming fire and a scorched earth. This kind of policy will not solve the balance of payment problem. The prevailing madness is caused by mad inflation."

Haolam Hazeh writes that the source of inflation is the surplus in demand, and the floating of the shekel against other currencies. "This floating brought to us all economic woes. The Israeli economy will not be revived without adjusting the value of the shekel to reality, and earlier we do this the better for us," the paper says; but "the devaluation of the shekel is not enough if we do not restore control over foreign currencies."

Koteret Rasht predicts that the accumulated cost of living increase since the pay talks began will reach 56 per cent by the end of December. If employers and the finance ministry planned to erode the value of wages through inflation, they have succeeded. "The erosion of wages serves certain ends of the Ministry of Finance, and employers," the paper says. "The low and middle income categories of workers are paying the price."

Al Hamishmar, in an editorial entitled "Salvation does not come from Washington," says the secret supplement to the US-Israeli aid agreement implies that President Reagan has committed himself to offer Israel an abundance of assistance, and if Israeli security needs require further help, the necessary aid will be made available according to the circumstances.

Security aid to Israel during next year will be \$1.4 billion as a grant. The American commitment to Israel is essential because Israel cannot cope alone with the armament race in the area, the paper says; but "there is no cause for celebrating the secret supplement because politics and economy are tied together, and there is no kind of American aid that can save Israel from the imminent economic crisis. "A solution to the problems of Israel does not lie in Washington's treasury but in an absolute change in Israel's economic policy."

Kol Ha'ir complains of the lack of any convincing explanation of Israel's attitude towards the exodus of PLO forces from Tripoli. It points out that the evacuation met Israel's supposed demand for the evacuation of all foreign forces from Lebanon. "Did the Likud government want them to stay in Tripoli in order to allow the Israeli army to stay in Lebanon?"

The only answer to this question is that the Likud government is trying to divert attention from its economic problems, the Israeli paper concludes.

Tourists give Jamaica a vote of confidence

By Nick Worrall

KINGSTON (Agencies) — Prime Minister Edward Seaga of Jamaica is riding high after capturing all 60 parliamentary seats in a virtually uncontested election and presiding over what he firmly believes to be a period of real growth in the island's economy.

Tourists are jetting in record numbers, new factories are beginning to hum. The Cubans have been routed in Grenada and his old socialist rival Michael Manley seems as far from regaining power as when the 1980 election landslide brought Edward Seaga to centre stage in the Caribbean.

Only a year ago President Reagan received a message from Mr. Seaga saying time was running out for moderate, progressive governments like his own and that the United States should respond with more than symbolic means to their political and economic pressures.

The direct response from the White House was the 'Caribbean Basin Initiative' through which Jamaica and other Western-minded states, including those in Central America, could receive a real boost to their economies while enjoying security from Cuban and other socialist designs. While it is too early to judge the power of the free enterprise engine in solving the region's massive development problems, Seaga appears for the moment to have been given the respite he needs to fulfil his policies.

Most Jamaicans still adore Michael Manley, whose rule between 1972 and 1980 put Jamaica on to a socialist path. But it seems he sadly misjudged the mood in recent weeks. In particular, his inaction that the Cubans would come back to Jamaica in force if he ever regained office dampened the fiery support he normally enjoys.

His boycott of the election over Seaga's failure to issue a new voters' roll disenfranchised his followers, who were left

with no way to express opposition to Seaga's conservative Jamaica Labour Party. In contrast to the colourful Manley, Seaga presents a much dourer image. For a start he is white, in a country of 80 per cent blacks. He is the son of a travel agent of Lebanese extraction, and was educated at Harvard.

On platforms he lacks Manley's ability to converse intimately with the crowds in their own dialect. Instead he trots out dry statistics, asserts his constitutional rights and simply tells those who care to listen that socialism failed in Jamaica and that his policies are beginning to work.

The probability is that the people will continue to give Seaga a chance. They know times are hard everywhere and that international money is difficult to find. And they can see the evidence of improvement in tourism and industry. There is also a deep-seated belief that what happened in Grenada could, but for the swing to the right in the 1980 elections, have happened in Jamaica.

But it is equally probable that Seaga only has limited time. A stroll around the old port area of Kingston or into the poor rural areas shows the depth of poverty. Hollow-eyed figures abound the prosperous-looking foreigners every few steps, begging for money or selling sweets and marijuana.

Between bursts of Christmas music, Jamaican radio stations continually assure the people there will soon be rice and wheat in the shops. Expected shipments of corned beef will not arrive in time for Christmas but there will be canned mackerel and chicken pieces.

The United States has launched a Caribbean experiment using Jamaica as its spearhead. Washington has pinned its faith on Edward Seaga, and his deep belief in capitalism. The eyes of the two million Jamaicans, not fully trusting, are watching intently.

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Arab unity comes first

ALTHOUGH WE are with those who consider PLO leader Mr. Yasser Arafat's sudden visit to Egypt a bold and positive step towards restoring unity among Arab ranks, and a timely initiative aiming at involving Egypt in future Arab decisions and actions, it is our opinion that Mr. Arafat and his organization should not act further without consulting with the rest of the Arab allies. It is essential that the PLO chairman realizes the sensitivity of the current situation and his need to gain support at the coming Arab summit.

Future steps, however bold and courageous, must have the backing of most Arab governments in order to achieve the desired goals. Despite what happened in Tripoli and the setback that the PLO suffered because of Arab weakness and indecisiveness, the Palestinians need not to divorce themselves from the collective efforts that are being made by wise and pragmatic Arab governments which desire peace and harmony in the area. Such transitional periods must be handled with extreme care by the policymakers of the PLO and its supporters so as not to widen the rift that already exists in the Arab world and to receive the international backing that is required during the coming stages.

We have always called on the Arabs to find a quick end to the isolation of Egypt and to free that important country from the humiliating bonds of the Camp David agreements. At the same time we emphasized the need for a unanimous Arab action towards that end. Therefore, we hope, that Mr. Arafat's visit to Egypt and his meeting with its president did not carry an approval of that country's unilateral policies in relation to Israel. We only have to look at the final results of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty to understand the negative implications that they inflicted on the Arab world and the Palestinian people.

The return of Egypt to the Arab fold is conditional and not merely a wishful thinking. It is also connected with the restoration of unity and co-operation among the members of the Arab League. The Palestinians are no exception to that rule. We look at them as leaders in the fields of Arab unity, struggle against Zionism and imperialism and defenders of Arab rights. We want this image to last and act as an inspiration to the rest of the Arabs.

It is our hope that the PLO will not act hastily in the coming stages and that it will present itself in the long-delayed but upcoming Arab summit conference as the only Arab party that has stood firmly against all conspiracies — Arab and Zionist — and is willing to achieve peace and secure the rights of its people from a strong standpoint, not a weak one.

What else is new?

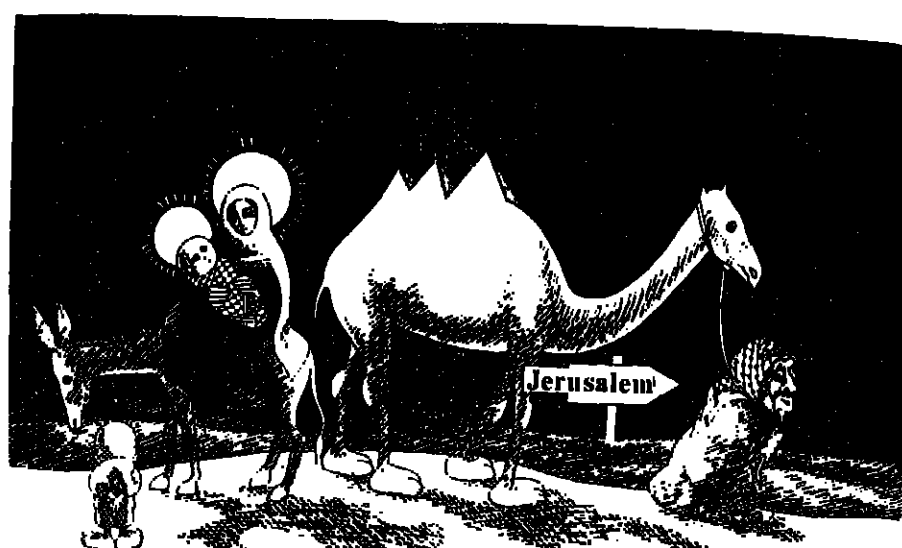
PRESIDENT REAGAN, in his latest pre-vacation statement, admitted that "blame" for the deaths of 241 US Marines in last October's truck-bombing incident "rests here in this office with this president." By this action, he displayed his courage, honesty and presidential sense of responsibility — or so he would have us believe.

Is Mr. Reagan really ready to bear the consequences of the soldiers' slaughter? We don't mean he is expected personally to pay their surviving relatives some kind of compensation — nothing, after all, can bring the dead back. But would he be willing, for instance, not to stand for re-election if the American people thought they did not want a killer for president? We think not.

In the same statement, the president said he accepted and agreed with the conclusions of the Pentagon's investigation of the incident. But that report blames high-level officers, not Mr. Reagan — so that lets him off the hook. He apparently felt the need, however, to display his presidential qualities by "accepting responsibility." But does that mean that he is willing to bring the Marines home to prevent more such incidents? Again, it's highly unlikely.

Mr. Reagan's statement would make more sense to us if we could believe that he meant he accepted blame for all of the troubles of Lebanon and the Middle East, for the anguish that America's client state has inflicted on the Arab world, and then, by extension, for whatever happened to the Marines and all involved in Lebanon. Israel does have its own way of doing things, which often is, or at least is said to be, at odds with American wishes — but there is a very real sense in which the United States must shoulder responsibility for the crimes of the creature it has nurtured from the womb — and that means for the present state of things in strife-torn Lebanon.

If Mr. Reagan really were saying this, then we still might be justified in taking it with just a slight grain of salt. Yes, we've known all along about your country's attitude in the region, Mr. President — so what else is new?



Naji Al-Ali

Al-Qabas

Options in Lebanon

By Osama El-Sherif

THE OUTBREAK of violence once again in Beirut this week between the Lebanese army units and Shi'ite militias brings the Lebanese trauma back to the status quo. The civil war continues, foreign occupation of that Arab country remains and the involvement of the Western states is proving to be part of the problem and not a solution to it.

It is time that the United States, which took it upon itself to solve the crisis and restore peace and tranquility to Lebanon, began accepting some bitter but essential facts that have to do with the continuation of the blood bath in that country. The United States should accept and deal with the Syrian presence in Lebanon. Syria is there and it can't be forced out militarily. Any American action against the Syrians in Lebanon would only strengthen that country's position and embarrass America's might and reasoning in this area. The United States must lay the foundation of dialogue with the Syrians so as to secure an honourable solution that will be acceptable to all parties concerned.

The Syrians on the other hand realize such facts very well and have played their cards with care and shrewdness. They have not only embarrassed a great power like the United States by dealing to it a heavy blow on the ground and in the air, but also managed to mine all routes leading out of the so-called Lebanese quagmire. They realize that at the end they would have to withdraw from Lebanon since the odds have been doubled and raised beyond their capabilities, but what they would like is to be talked out of their present positions rather than pushed or forced out of them.

It will be considered foolish on America's part if it approved any plans for the partitioning of Lebanon. The US must take into account the effect this action might have on its credibility in the Middle East. Such results will be defeating the purpose of America's involvement and those of its allies in the Multinational force in Lebanon. Furthermore, taking such a decision will prove to be short-sighted on America's part since the project will backfire and the anarchy in Lebanon will continue.

In addition to that, a sound and determined American attitude in the Middle East aimed at resolving the Palestinian problem and bringing peace and co-existence between Arabs and Jews will have to depend on the outcome of the Lebanese crisis. If America fails to end foreign occupation of Lebanon and the achievement of a national consensus that will secure a legitimate government, then the entire show of force and diplomacy by the United States will be pointless and misleading to the peoples of the Middle East and to the American people.

It will be simplistic on our side to believe that the United States is only seeking to restore peace and tranquility in Lebanon with no personal gains.

The more realistic view would be to look at the US as trying to isolate, neutralize and control Lebanon. This approach is failing drastically at the moment because many Lebanese still feel themselves as part of the Arab world, they reject the Lebanese-Israeli agreement if not in whole then in parts, and still oppose US policies in the area.

Therefore, any plans that the United States may have for Lebanon should not include ones that might partition that country. America should understand that Lebanon is for the Lebanese only and not the Syrians or the Israelis. Any schemes that aim at partitioning Lebanon to the interests of Syria, Israel and the United States must not be allowed to function.

If America is sincere in its quest for genuine peace in the Lebanon, then, it must also reject the old formula on which Lebanon survived in the last two or so decades. The minority rule of the Christian Maronites cannot be allowed to take place once again since this was the major reason for the outbreak of hostilities in the first place.

On the contrary, the reconciliation process among all parties and groups in Lebanon must be continued at any cost allowing for the negotiation of a new social, political and economic reforms and formulas based on national consensus. Only through this can America's objectives — if they are sincere — in Lebanon be achieved.

The Americans should also realize that their interests in the region and especially in Lebanon should not meet with those of Israel. Actually, Lebanon has been a departure point for both countries' foreign policies since Israel has secured a firm grip over the South while America was left to worry about the rest of Lebanon and face the Syrians by itself. Such fact should prompt the Americans to do the following if they desire to get out of Lebanon without losing face and after helping in building up the real foundations for peace and strong government in Lebanon:

- 1 - Establish a serious dialogue with the Syrians aimed at securing the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon at the same time.
- 2 - Put real pressure on the Israelis to halt all their attempts to annex the South to Israel or isolating it from the rest of Lebanon, and agreeing on a timetable for the final withdrawal of the Israeli and Syrian forces.
- 3 - Facilitate for the resumption of the reconciliation talks, focusing all efforts on the preservation of the rights of all minorities and groups represented in Lebanon and putting an end to the supremacy of one group over the rest in the running of the state.

Osama El-Sherif is the editor of The Jerusalem Star.

Kamel

Abu

Jaber

The strategic co-operation agreements

Part IV

Greetings to Jerusalem!

THE ATMOSPHERE, both regional and international that preceded and accompanied the conclusion of the strategic agreements between the United States and Israel, was no doubt a contributing factor encouraging to the two signatories.

Regionally, the Arab world, if such an entity exists at all as anything but a figment of the imagination, was in its usual disarray, disunity and chaos. Within the war in Lebanon, there were several smaller conflicts threatening to become larger. Iraq was in the quagmire of its conflict with Iran, while Israel, France and the United States were liberally using their naval and air forces to hit at whatever targets struck their fancy.

Internationally, the United States-Soviet Union nuclear arms control talks came to a complete halt, with nuclear scientists placing the hands of the nuclear doomsday clock at three minutes before midnight, while Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani of Saudi Arabia smilingly emerged from the conclusion of the OPEC meeting in Geneva to announce that the price of oil and its production ceiling would remain the same, assuring the West of its vital energy requirements.

Very little has emerged regarding the details and scope of the strategic agreements, however, putting together the fragments and data gleaned from various sources, here and there, a frightening picture materializes. Should the collected details prove to be true, the picture is indeed much gloomier than one's wildest imagination. On the moral level, the mere conclusion of an agreement with an aggressor who is still in occupation of others' lands, is a step backward to the "law of the jungle" and an open admission that this is what rules the world; and this, from a country advocating morality and law as the very basis of its system.

On the political level, the agreements are a contravention of international law and order. The announcement that the United States is threatening or will be threatening to withdraw from the UNESCO in support of Israel, coming as it does on the heels of the agreements, makes the picture even gloomier. Is the United States really willing to wreck the entire international order, shaky and unstable as it is, in support of an aggressor? An aggressor that America itself condemned on at least one occasion previously? For the sake of Israel, the United States has come to share the international moral and political isolation of Israel, as has the entire Western world. The double standard, the flagrant support of an admitted aggressor and the continued trivialization and inhuman treatment of its victims are signs of a moral corruption and bankruptcy that is bound to have its repercussions within Western civilization, itself. Ultimately, the unjust will suffer as much as their victims, if not more.

For his political support, Mr. Reagan has apparently failed to get anything out of Mr. Shamir, who emerged with the agreements while still rejecting the Reagan initiative and holding to his and Israel's views on further settlements in the occupied territories. Mr. Reagan also announced his support and adherence to the Lebanese-Israeli agreement of 17 May, 1983 stating that the Lebanese crisis can be resolved on that basis only.

On the economic level, the agreements are also unique in the annals of international intercourse: to such a degree that one is bound to ask, "Does the federal government of the United States give so much support to any of the states within the union?"

American aid allocated to Israel in 1983, was \$2.485 billion. In 1984, the allocated aid is about \$2.61 billion and in fact may be much higher. In a "secret" letter from Mr. Reagan to Mr. Shamir, revealed on radio Israel (18 December, 1983), the American president it seems agreed to match Israel's increasing "defence" requirements as of 1986. The chairman of the American Joint Chiefs of Staff will visit Israel in January, 1984, for talks and consultation. From the tone of the whole affair, and the fact that 1984 is an election year, the "aid" it would seem, will be increased before 1986. How much, is not known, but the increased "defence" aid, a boost and relief to the Israeli economy, will release "defence" funds for use elsewhere in the budget.

According to some reports, US aid has already been increased to three billion dollars; this, in addition to the cancellation of certain other debts. The economic and military aid is so intricately intertwined, that it is often difficult to keep hold of the thread weaving them together. The military aspects of the agreements deserve a separate discussion. Of immense significance, however, is the fact that from now on, Israel must also approve any aid given by the United States to any Arab country.



A farewell assessment of 1983

IT IS in due appreciation of The Jerusalem Star editor's opinion article of last week, entitled "We are the enemy", that this article is being written. Such forceful but sincere and well-meant denunciation of our Arab society as presented in last week's article, and expressed in "How long can we accept to live in this poisonous society, where we have no identity, no principles and no future? Our liberties seem to diminish every day as do our lands and strength" must be really admired. The whole article, in fact, is so succinctly and pertinently styled and expressed that to read it is to feel not only deeply impressed but also shakingly instigated to begin candidly to think about our present situation.

One might differ with some of the premises Mr. editor starts from, but nobody disagrees with him as regards the sad dilemma we have involved ourselves in by the end of 1983, after nearly forty years of futile setbacks and crazy well-studied mess of schemes. To call them schemes would betray the holy commitment to truth.

For had the Arabs as early as 1948, or even back in 1967, wholeheartedly and full-preparedly, in accordance with a clear vision and a meticulously studied plan, embarked upon a plan to at least cease Israel's expansionism and rapacity, the Arabs would have been saved all the quagmires and miseries they are, now suffering to the very bone. If there had been at those early times the real and far-sighted will and vision, there would have been a way. But instead of integrity, unselfishness and real disinterested love of freedom, dishonesty, selfish intrigue and superficial bravado have so far prevailed. No wonder that we have reached a stage when "our liberties seem to diminish every day, as do our lands and strength."

Looking back over this current year, 1983, which is about to breathe its last, we can single out three major events, in particular, that would have awakened the Arabs to their senses if really they had had the stamina at the time to do so. The first event was the conclusion of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement of 17 May, 1983 under the au-

spices of the American umbrella of good wishes, of course for American interests in the area.

These patrons of the Arab cause had previously paved for the agreement by bringing into Lebanon the troops of the multi-national forces outside the domain of the UN. Only few among the official-minded Arabs

By Henry Matar

assessed the great danger to the Arab cause and to Arab stability, independence, integrity of will and decision, and what not which both the Lebanese-Israeli agreement and the stepping-in of the multi-national forces have brought in.

How could the Arabs have allowed the agreement or the foreign intervention to pass, at least as far as principle and what should be concerned, is something that nobody can understand. Both the agreement and intervention meant the encouragement of isolationist tendencies and loss of national liberty. If some practically cared about the mischief when it happened — and I mean the brave and active spots of Lebanese and Palestinian resistance — why couldn't the bulk of the gigantic, but disabled, body of the Arab world do something to stop its humiliation and loss of national identity? If we don't care a damn about the loss of national liberty, how can we expect to preserve the social and personal liberties?

The next major event of 1983 was that which ended up in the Israeli-American agreement for economic and military co-operation on the 29 November. The mask that to some good numbers of Arabs had been used to hide the real face of certain parties to the Middle East issue was at last lifted. For some time, the bare truth shone bright and stark to everybody. But soon the thickly-condensed mass-media information campaign has drowned that truth and new plans for splitting the Arabs into the so-called moderates and radicals have revived anew.

The simple truth about the whole question of the Middle

East is that this ill-starred Middle East has been enmeshed upon by Western colonialism, of which Israel is the cat's paw. To stand up to the challenge of aggression, exploitation, and invasion everybody should never forgo clear vision of who is the real enemy, who is this enemy's ally and supporter, who is a time-serving equivocator pretending to speak candidly and properly, but at heart either allying himself with the enemy and his supporter or concocting plots against the future of the Arab world. With such a clear vision and with a concomitant persistence in taking the right stand towards any cropping up new turn of events there will be no split into radicals and moderates. Yes, there will be no loss of 'identity' or 'principles' that is referred to in Mr. editor's article.

The third and last major event over the passing-away year was the UN celebration of the anniversary of the undersigning of the Declaration of Human Rights this instant month, December 1983. This declaration affects occupied people, such as the Palestinians, the Lebanese and the small Syrian minority in the Golan Heights as regards the right of self-determination.

These occupied sections of the Arab world should be made to understand and to be fully aware not to make a move, or accept an outside offer unless they are sure that it won't jeopardise their right to self-determination. Very critical are the conditions that the occupied sections of the Arab world are passing through. They have to be careful of any step that might be taken just to lift off a temporarily hard difficulty but which might be basically detrimental to the core of their right to self-determination.

Internally within every Arab country, the UN Declaration of Human Rights should mean a peaceful but stubborn struggle for individual liberties — the liberty of speech, the liberty of representation and the liberty from persecution and oppression. So let the inception of the new year of 1984 carry with it the presents of clear vision and the holding onto individual and national freedoms. And a very happy New Year to all!

Memorandum

Freeing the PLO

A LOCAL newspaper interviewed a number of prominent Jordanians and Palestinians last week to get their views on the controversial visit of PLO Chairman Mr. Yasser Arafat to Egypt and his meeting with President Hosni Mubarak. Naturally the responses were varied. In the Arab world a sudden awakening took us by surprise as moderate and radical Arab states issued statements and sent messages either to condemn the visit or to praise it. Even in the most remote capitals of the world reactions were recorded and positions underlined.

With due respect to all the parties that expressed their opinions on Mr. Arafat's historic visit, I must admit that all reactions — positive or negative — were out of place. Look at it this way: I can imagine us having a word or two to say on the visit and its future impact if we had the decency to stand with Mr. Arafat and his fighters during the siege of Tripoli. I can accept the idea of forming opinions and reactions if we stood by the PLO leader during his worst hours and suffered like he and his men did. If all these had happened then we would have the right to either condemn or praise Mr. Arafat's actions.

One good thing about the sad events of the last two weeks is that, now the Palestinian

revolution has freed itself from the control of a number of Arab governments, which have been hiding behind empty slogans of unity and justice. The Palestinians can now choose the direction of their struggle and putting their own interests before those who fought against them.

We can no longer dare to call them "traitors" if they choose to negotiate and adopt peaceful methods in order to reach a solution to their ongoing agonies as homeless fighters and refugees. We cannot say that we have a right to interfere in the Palestinian decision, whatever that may be, now that we have chosen to abandon them in their darkest hour. How can we since we stood like sleepy bystanders as Tripoli was shelled and bombed from all sides — Arab from the land and Israeli from the sea — and then rejoiced when a compromise was reached to evacuate the fighters safely under French naval protection.

We should respect the Palestinian decision and think deeply of the events of the last two years and the humiliating end that we have reached. Let us not deceive ourselves and others by condemning or supporting Arafat. Let us ask ourselves — before opening our mouths — this question: At least Arafat and his men fought in the madness of Beirut and the bells of Tripoli; have we?

A million Swiss visit Petra at Lausanne

FOR THE last 15 years, two or three foreign countries have been invited to the annual Swiss National Fair. This year, Jordan was one of the three to participate in the 64th fair. "I am personally very satisfied to have opened the gates" of the Jordanian pavilion, said Swiss Ambassador to Jordan Andre Valbon. Switzerland, he added, is very dependent on world-wide economic relations, and has always been open to the world. "I am very glad I was able to animate our Jordanian friends to realize one of the most brilliant and attractive pavilions which have been seen at Lausanne in recent years," he told The Star in an interview.

The pavilion centred around the culture of the Nabataeans, ancient trader inhabitants of Jordan.

Minister of Industry and Trade Walid Asfour told The Star that it was the first time Jordan had been guest of honour at the fair, which was open from 10-25 September. This opportunity will not be given again for another 10 years. It is basically an agricultural, trade and industrial fair, but although Jordan exhibited its phosphate, fertilizer, cement and other industries, the stress was on its history.

The idea of the Nabataean theme came from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. The exhibition proposed Jordan from the historical, touristic and industrial points of view: the past, the present and projections of the future. The greatest help in Switzerland came from Jordan's representative at the United Nations, Mr. Ghaleb Barakat. The pavilion's very original and daring design showed a picture of the Khazneh (Treasury) of Petra at its front. This photograph was taken by the booth's designer Mr. Zand, along with all the others exhibited. It was enlarged and printed on zinc-based, rain-proof material. It was this giant photo which attracted the 1.1 million visitors to the pavilion, and, Mr. Asfour added, the Swiss police had to come to regulate the streams of visitors, especially over the weekend. Swiss papers estimated that 80 per cent of the visitors to the fair came in to the Jordan pavilion, while 20 per cent of them came especially to see it.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade participates in about 15 exhibitions a year, but this has been the most successful and least costly of all. The whole

Lella G. Deeb, now a full-time employee of Reuters news agency, wrote this report before leaving The Star's staff.

thing cost less than JD 50,000. The equipment and showcases were all rented. T-shirts of Petra, with "Visitez Moi" printed on them, and others of Jerash, Amman and Aqaba were presented. All available pamphlets, particularly those from the Ministry of Tourism, were collected and distributed at the pavilion. People literally fought over them, the minister said. The ministry printed a guide to the exhibits at the fair, including historical background, the discovery of Petra by the Swiss explorer Burckhardt, and explanations to each of the exhibits.

Authentic Nabataean sculptures and pottery were borrowed from the Jordan National Museum and exhibited in glass cases with special lighting. A plasticized map of the country lit from underneath was the first exhibit the visitors saw. But the most popular giveaways were 1-fil stamps which the Ministry of Communications had been about to destroy. Mr. Asfour bought the 25,000 pieces for JD 25, put them on postcards and distributed them with all the pamphlets he could get.

A continuous slide show on screens in the different parts of the exhibit was showing, while a video film on the King's Highway, the Desert Castles and other historical sites was shown. Mr. Asfour said he was impressed by the Swiss teachers who came to watch films and selected what their students should see on the next day. When they brought in their classes, they had questions prepared for them, and the students had to answer them out of the films they saw. The beautiful and impressive slides, the minister said, came from Dr. Akram Barakat, Jordan's Information Officer in Washington, D.C.

But the biggest attraction was the folkdance troupe of Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, which danced outside the pavilion all day long. Mr. Asfour especially expressed his appreciation of their hard work, and that of all Alia personnel who helped in the pavilion.

Asked what advantages Jordan had gained from this fair other than disseminating touristic and historical information, the minister said that he and Jordanian businessmen and officials had met with the Swiss Federal Minister of Industry, the Swiss Office for Trade Development, and with the Arab-Swiss Chamber of Commerce. These meetings were open to businessmen and industrialists, and frank discussions were held regarding joint ventures in the private sector, while many pharmaceutical and electrical companies showed interest in opening regional offices in Jordan.

President of the Amman Chamber of Commerce Hamdi Tabba, who was present at these meetings, told The Star that the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and Industry had asked businessmen to join the delegation, and Mr. Jamil Barakat, Mr. Subhi Abu Shaqra and Mr. Emmanuel Sabella had responded and joined in the discussions. Mr. Tabba said they attended the permanent industrial exhibition of the Office for Promotion of Industry in Geneva.

Asked to comment on the Jordan pavilion, Mr. Sabella said it was one of the most beautiful he had seen in a lifetime. "Remarkably beautiful and well-done. It was in a strategic position near the entrance to the fair, where everyone could see it," he said. He added that the booklets on currency, property, industry and other things distributed were very useful, and he praised the efforts of the Ministry and of Alia.

But Mr. Tabba was more interested in the trade aspect of the visit, during which he and the others were able to meet with the Swiss private sector and discuss possibilities of exporting Jordanian phosphates, fertilizers and agricultural products. "The marketing will take a lot of effort, sacrifice and time for both the government and the private sector," he said. "A campaign must be initiated for this, as well as bringing in the Swiss technical know-how Jordan needs, and efforts must be made to encourage joint ventures with them."

But Mr. Vallon summed up the situation this way: "The interest shown by the Swiss potential partners to develop their relations with Jordan looked very encouraging. I personally hope that this will contribute in extending the mutual relations between the two countries and deepen the friendship that already exists between them."



The Khazneh and the Alia Folklore Troupe: the Jordanian pavilion's two biggest drawing cards

The emerging story of the ancient Nabataeans

At one time lost to history, the rich and unique culture of the Nabataean trader kingdom is now well-known. But much information still lies buried, and archaeologists are continuing their investigations.

ANCIENT HISTORIANS first saw the Nabataeans as a band of pastoral nomads moving along the shores of the Arabian Peninsula. By the fourth century B.C., they had reached the rock-girt fastness of Petra and settled down.

The first datable account of their presence there comes from Diodorus Siculus, who recounts that a Seleucid military unit attacked Petra in 321 B.C. — while all the able-bodied males were absent at a trade fair. A subsequent ambush restored the loot taken from the Nabataeans' stronghold. Obviously, by that time the Nabataeans were already engaged in commerce, probably had begun to develop their agricultural and hydraulic technology, were well organized and relatively safe from outside military intervention — situations which would ultimately make the people a major commercial force in the entire civilized world of the day.

In the course of that rise to commercial eminence, the Nabataeans became a state, whose some known rulers emerged from "tyrant" to "king" by the middle of the second century B.C. Occasional inscriptions — and the reports of Josephus about the Nabataeans during the early Roman Period — along with a growing body of archaeological evidence are all we know of the emergence of the new kingdom.

But rise it did. By the Augustan Age (63 B.C.-A.D. 14), Petra (which in Greek means "rock") had become a magnificent provincial capital city, with all the proper accoutrements that were demanded at that time — a theatre, nymphaeum, market

places, temples, private villas, defensible city walls, water supply and a colonnaded street.

Outside of Petra over a thousand smaller settlements, religious centres, trade depots, guard posts and other installations stretched from the Dead Sea Valley to Medina Sulih in Arabia to the south. Commercial agents were at posts in Egypt, the Arabian Gulf and Italy — and even the far distant Chinese had a name for Petra.

All of the luxury goods of the ancient world seem to have flowed along those land trade routes, bringing wealth and prominence to the Nabataeans. Most especially to be noted was the lucrative transport of frankincense and myrrh from southern Arabia.

Such wealth attracted envy, however, and Rome tried military actions, political involvement and intelligence missions to no avail. Finally, diversion of certain major trade routes weakened the Nabataean monopolies and, in A.D. 106, the Romans finally entered Petra.

Until very recently, that date was seen to be the end of the Nabataeans, but current archaeological activities at Petra, along with the continuing discovery of new Nabataean inscriptions, suggest a readjustment of that viewpoint. Although no longer an independent kingdom, the people continued to flourish at Petra under direct Roman control, at least until A.D. 363 when a disastrous earthquake destroyed most of the city.

Petra sank into obscurity and was not rediscovered until 1812 by the Swiss explorer, Johann Ludwig Burckhardt. Since then, the natural beauty of the site, its fantastic carvings and its ancient buildings now recovered by archaeologists, have made Petra live again.



The Nabataean city's Temenos Gate, with the temple of Qasr Al-Bint in the background



"Ernie's a chicken, Ernie's a chicken..."

The Far Side
By Gary Larson



Murray is caught desecrating the secret appliance burial grounds.

The Obelisk Tomb at Petra

analysis

Oil money may save 200,000 outcasts

By Richard Hall

LORD ENNALS a former British Labour Party Social Service Minister is the hero of 200,000 shanty dwellers in Bangladesh. Ennals feels confident that he is suddenly much nearer to his vision of moving an entire ragged community of Bihari Muslims more than 1,000 miles westwards to be resettled in Pakistan. After years of misery and despair, these victims of a bad political miscalculation also believe it.

He has been engaged in what he called a 'One-man struggle' to help the stranded Biharis since 1972. They are outcasts in Bangladesh because they opposed its breakaway from Pakistan to become a separate state.

Now Ennals has persuaded the World Muslim League, a charitable body based in Mecca, to launch a campaign to raise \$200 million for the mass migration. 'I expect the ball to start rolling soon,' Ennals said. Although the Biharis are jubilant, there is scepticism here that the Arab oil producers — at whom the appeal will be aimed — are likely to produce such a sum. Fund-raising for similar humanitarian causes, such as famine relief in the African Sahel, failed to meet far more modest targets.

In his drive to arouse sympathy, Ennals last week took delegations from five Arab States around one of 66 camps in which the Biharis have been concentrated by the Bangladesh government. Even by the worst Third World standards, the squalor, stench and overcrowding prove shocking on first acquaintance. 'The tour made a big effect,' Ennals said afterwards.

The Bihari children — half the population of the camps is under 15 — have known only these conditions. After the independence war, the entire community was rounded up and its property confiscated. The Bangladeshis accused the hostile minority of committing atrocities in Dacca and other cities while fighting as auxiliaries for the Pakistan army.

Ennals says he has a high measure of confidence that influential Arabs with whom he has been combing his efforts will make the \$200 million appeal succeed. He has come on his latest mission to Bangladesh by way of Pakistan, where he sought a guarantee that the Biharis will be accepted if the money is collected.

This is probably the biggest question-mark hanging over the Ennals scheme. He says that earlier this year, President Zia ul-Haq promised: 'They can come. If Islamic organisations will meet the cost.' But more recently the Pakistani foreign minister, Yaqub Khan, said on a visit to Bangladesh: 'Don't keep raising the Bihari issue. It's closed.' This is in line with earlier Pakistani declaration that it has done its share of absorbing those beleaguered people. In the 1970s, 17,000 were moved to the Karachi area. The remainder, according to Pakistan at the time, were a Bangladeshi problem.

But the Biharis are now effectively stateless. The community migrated to what was Muslim East Pakistan in 1947, during the partition of India. But they did not speak Bengali, like their reluctant hosts, and clung to the Urdu language. In the few makeshift schools in the camps, teaching is all in Urdu.

Even if the Pakistanis agree to take some more Biharis, in easy stages, there is doubt about where they will be welcome. If they are allowed to settle, like their predecessors, in and around Karachi, this could upset a delicate communal balance. Despite all these obstacles, Ennals seems sure that a new life is around the corner for the forgotten people of the Indian sub-continent.

(ONS)

A nuclear war will annihilate earth

By Janet Bohlen

US AND Soviet scientists are agreed on at least one point concerning the effects of nuclear war: the tropical Third World will not escape devastation, even if the war is fought only in the North.

'In a nuclear war there is no victor and no vanquished', said Yuri Israel, of the Soviet Academy of Science, via satellite from Moscow to a gathering in Washington of more than 500 scientists, conservationists and government officials. They came from some 15 nations, including Third World countries such as Argentina, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico and Venezuela.

Even a one-way strike of no more than 100 megatons (one megaton has the force of one million tonnes of TNT) against cities could trigger a global 'nuclear winter', said two eminent US scientists, physicist Carl Sagan and biologist Paul Erlich, representing a consensus of some 100 other experts.

'People in the Southern Hemisphere who think this is a Northern Hemisphere problem must unfortunately think again', warned Sagan. Only the timing and degree of suffering will be different, he implied. These new findings on the risks associated with nuclear war were made public during a two-day conference here. The meeting ended with an unprecedented satellite hook-up with Moscow during which Soviet and US scientists exchanged data.

Up to 1.1 billion people would be killed outright in a large-scale nuclear war. An equal number would need medical aid, which will be largely unavailable. The long-term effects would be far more serious. US physicists used a 5,000-megaton war as their 'baseline', but they said that a 100-1,000 megaton exchange would radically disrupt weather and climate, causing darkness and extreme cold.

Within a week of such a war, sunlight in the Northern Hemisphere would be reduced to 1-2 per cent of normal, because of soot from fires and the debris flung into the air by explosions. The smoke from urban fires would be poisonous because of the plastics and modern synthetics with which modern cities are built.

This pall of smoke, dust and radioactivity would spread southwards, possibly very rapidly, and could conceivably cover the entire globe. Previous studies have indicated the Southern Hemisphere would escape most effects of a nuclear war in the Northern Hemisphere. But dust gen-

Muslim birth rate shifts Soviet power balance

By Mark Frankland

CENTRAL ASIA, a forgotten and enfeebled collection of Muslim peoples when it was enveloped by Tsarist Russia in the last century, has entered a period of rebirth that is changing the balance of power within the Soviet Union.

The rebirth begins, very simply, with babies. Central Asia has the highest population growth in the country and Tadzhikistan is the highest in Central Asia. Tadzhiks living in their own republic (some also live in neighbouring Uzbekistan) doubled in the last 20 years. Economists at the Tadzhik Academy of Sciences say they will more than double again by the end of the century to over five million. Soviet demographers calculate that by the year 2000 one in three Soviet citizens will be from the traditionally Muslim nationalities who are less than one in six today.

The attitude of senior officials in Dushanbe is — 'the more Tadzhiks the better.' Birth control, they say, has never entered their minds. The birth rate will find its natural level. They seem to regard the present phenomenal growth as no more than historical justice after centuries of shameful decline. Central government policies are helping the Tadzhiks and other central Asians to grow, though it is doubtful they are meant to. Child subsidies are paid to mothers with three or more children. It would be politically impossible for Moscow to direct this aid just at the Slavs, whose birth rate is falling, and deny it to the Asians.

Soviet economists sometimes suggest that only Asian migration can remove

erated by a single Mexican volcano recently circled the globe in three weeks and spread to north and south within eight months. Observations of giant dust storms on Mars also tend to confirm that nuclear dust would cover this globe relatively quickly.

The darkness under this cloud would disrupt photosynthesis, by which plants turn light into energy. Food chains would collapse. The biological results would be



more profound than anything that has happened in the last 65 million years, according to Donald Kennedy, president of Stanford University. Temperatures would drop and stay down for months, bringing ice age conditions in the North and localised sub-freezing temperatures in the South.

Northern crops would fail, and most human survivors there would starve. With temperatures immediately following the war plunging to somewhere between -15°C and -25°C except along the coasts, fresh water would freeze. People who did not die of injuries or starvation could die of thirst.

A 10,000-megaton war would make temperatures drop 50°C for almost a

year, depending on the speed with which the cloud was dispelled. Temperatures in the South would also drop, though less predictably, and probably recover sooner. By comparison, the Ice Age was brought on by a temperature change of only about 10°C. An 8° to 10°C decline would wipe out all grain production in the northern Hemisphere.

Many Third World countries rely on grain and other food imports from the North. These shipments would cease. Japan, which presently imports 75 per cent of its food and more than 90 per cent of its fuel, would be completely cut off.

At least one third of the globe never experiences freezing temperatures. The people, animals and plants of the tropics are not used to sharp temperature swings. Tropical plants can be killed by a drop of only a few degrees. The cold would wipe out most tropical forests, the genetic reservoirs of millions of species. This could mean the extinction of more than half of all life on the planet.

The seas would provide little relief. The oceans would remain warmer than the land, and the exchange of warm and cold air between land and water would result in severe storms. Coastal food supplies such as oysters, clams and mussels would absorb toxins from fall-out and surface runoff.

The oceans' phytoplankton, base of the aquatic food chain, needs light to survive. This factor, coupled with the poisoning of coastal wetlands, would eliminate many marine species. The explosions would damage or destroy the ozone layer which protects the earth from the sun's ultra-violet rays. At first, the dust and soot would provide a shield. But when the great cloud cleared, ultra-violet does about 1.6 times normal could be expected. Humans would be less naturally immune to disease, and blindness and cancers would increase.

The rays could affect human genes, causing mutations, abortions and birth defects. Interbreeding within isolated groups of survivors could make these problems worse.

In short, civilisation as we know it would be destroyed, the scientists said. Survivors would be forced to become hunters and gatherers, but few would know how to hunt or gather, and most of the plant and animal systems on which they would depend would no longer be there.

(Earthscan)

Who rules the USSR?

FROM ABOUT the middle of the 18th century, secret subversive forces increasingly involved themselves in the process of the struggle for power and world domination, taking good care all the time to remain in the background, unnoticed and unhindered in their destructive activities. These forces may be subdivided into the following headings:

1. Secret societies, such as Grand Orient Freemasonry and the Illuminati.
2. Militant Nationalism, similar to Pan-Germanism and Pan-Slavism of the 19th century and Nazism and Fascism of the Twentieth.
3. International Finance
4. Social Revolution with its different forms of Socialism, Communism, Anarchism and Syndicalism.
5. Judaism with aggressive Zionism as its offshoot and front.

The impact of these groups upon the world has been felt in greater and greater intensity since the 18th century and their influence upon the destinies of nations can in no way be overestimated. Indeed they were responsible for all the great upheavals of the last 200 years.

To reach their goals and fulfill their aims these groups have always stood behind false facades employing fronts and high sounding ideals and principles. Their most effective weapon was the slow and assiduous development of a system of camouflage behind which they mysteriously influenced events and exercised their rule and power. One of their very popular and most effective camouflages was and still is the use of slogans or decoy cries to mislead and confuse the people and to encourage them to sacrifice themselves and their wealth for an ideal or a principle which is far from what these groups were after.

By
N.J. Kattan



'Let us pray for peace and happiness among the peoples of the world' say the priestly hierarchies of all religions and creeds. But behind these words it is not always the Kingdom of God that is being sought as much as the worldly power of some priests engaged in the establishment of 'peace and happiness' under their own auspices and directions.

The two opposing camps — the United States and Soviet Russia are today largely directed and controlled by Organized Jewry and International Finance, which is predominantly Jewish. This Jewish leadership is containing both camps for the final take over when the military might of Soviet Russia reaches the level of the United States by two satanic slogans known as 'peaceful co-existence' and more recently as 'détente'.

The control of the two camps by the world secret Jewish leadership is not a flight of fancy as much as it is the stark truth. In the United States it is more evident and noticeable than in the Soviet Union where Jews very often change their names and adopt new Russian ones to conceal their true identities from the ethnic Russians and where freedom of movement and investigation is extremely difficult.

When Mr. Reagan entered the White House he was, because of his Beverly Hills background and innocence in foreign policy, more instinctively pro-Israeli than previous president. Yet he appointed a small number of Jews to his administration particularly in the first echelon of the federal government.

There are no Jews in Reagan's cabinet apart from the Jewish Mr. Casper Weinberger, the Secretary of Defence. Carter had five Jews in his cabinet.

In this stunning two-part revelation, Star columnist N.J. Kattan examines the influence of the Jews on the political and military system of the world's largest country and defender of the communist ideology. Part two will appear in The Star next week.



the Economist of July 25, 1981. Neither did Reagan appoint a high-level contact man to look after Jewish interests as Carter did when he appointed Mr. Robert Strauss for that job.

The few important Jewish appointees include: Martin Feldstein who succeeded his co-religionist Murry Weidenbaum as chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors; Jacob K. Javits, a four-term United States senator from New York who was appointed foreign policy adviser to Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr.; Mrs. Annenberg, the wife of former ambassador to Great Britain, was named Chief Protocol (she later resigned). James G. Lowenstein became ambassador to Luxembourg; Arthur Burns, former head of the Federal Reserve Bank, was appointed ambassador to West Germany; and Eugene V. Rustow filled the directorship of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency until January 14, 1983 when he was replaced by his co-religionist Kenneth Adelman who was confirmed by the Senate on Wednesday April 14, 1983. Also Morton W. Abramowitz replaced Richard Starr as the chief US negotiator in the Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction talks in Vienna.

Reliable sources say, however, that at sub-cabinet level there are more Jews and more committed Israeli sympathisers — remnants from Carter's Zionist — infested administration.

Yet these few Jewish appointments do not at all indicate an eclipse of the power and tremendous influence of the American Jewish leadership. One example centres around the very scandalous public struggle in the Senate between President Reagan and the Jewish lobby, an offshoot of the American Jewish leadership, in regard to selling to Saudi Arabia six aircraft warning and control planes (AWACS). Had not the President 'bribed' some senators with federal money for their states and bestowed favours on others, he would not have won the senate by 52 against 48 votes!

In the Soviet Union real power is vested in the Politbureau, the highest decision governing body in the state. It is made up of full members usually 14 in number — and candidates for full membership.

The following information about the Politbureau members has principally been culled from two articles, written by Mr. O.V. Drina and published in the January and September 1977 issues of the American 'Liberty Bell' monthly, under the titles, 'Anti-Semitism in the USSR...another Jewish Hoax' and 'Solzhenitsyn: Communist? Conscience or Kosher Herding?'

Some additions and corrections have been made to update Mr. Drina's information.

Full Members of the Politbureau in December 1982:

1. Yuri V. Andropov succeeded Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev in 1982 as General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Andropov, whose real name is Lieberman, is a Jew who was born in 1914. From 1936 to 1940 he was First Secretary of the Communist Party for Jaroslavl and before Brezhnev's death he was head of the KGB, the Committee for State Security, and a full member of the Politbureau. His Jewishness has been corroborated by an article written by Dusko Doder of the Washington Post service which appeared on page 1 in the International Herald Tribune of November 13-14, 1982. Doder wrote that 'According to reliable sources one of Andropov's grandparents was of Jewish parentage.'

2. Dmitry Fedorovich Ustinov a Jew whose real name is Ullrich. He was born in 1908 in Samara, now Kujbyshev. He replaced the Jew Grechko as Minister of Defence.

3. Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko is a Jew who was born in 1909 in the village of Staroye Gromykh in the Votko district of Gomel Province. People of this village remember him as the son of Isak Katz. He has been Minister of Foreign Affairs since 1958 and is also the Liaison Officer between the American Jewish Tribunal (led by the Jewish ruling triumvirate of the Soviet Union, made up of Andropov, Kulakov and M. Snaiov — alias Susan — the ideologist for all the Moscow — line communist parties in the world. Suslov died in January 1982 and Kulakov (alias Steta) a little earlier.

4. Victor Vasilyevich Grishin, a Jew whose real name is Grissel, was born in 1914 in Serpukhov.

5. When Prime Minister Adeney N. Kosygin resigned for health reasons in 1980 he was succeeded by N.A. Tikhonov, another ethnic Russian.

6. A.P. Kirilenko is an ethnic Russian who was born in 1906 in the village of Alekseyevka, now Voronezh Oblast. He is also a member of the Secretariat, Kirilenko retired as secretary was dropped from the Politbureau after the election of Andropov as General Secretary of the Communist Party and was replaced by Gaidar. Ali Ali-Zadeh, alias Aliyev, a Muslim Shi'ite and a KGB man. His appointment to the Politbureau probably indicates that Andropov wishes to regain some of Moscow's lost influence in the Muslim World. Aliyev was also appointed first deputy prime minister which marks him as the most likely successor to Tikhonov the present prime minister.

7. A. V.A. Pelase is a Jew who was born in Moscow in 1899. In addition to being a member of the Politbureau, he is the chairman of the powerful Committee of Party Control. He was elected to the chairmanship of the Committee after Andropov's election General Secretary of the Communist Party.

8. G.V. Romanov. Though yet nothing is known about him, he is one of the Soviet Union's top men.

9. Vladimir Vasilyevich Shcherbitskiy is a Jew who was born in 1918. He graduated from the Chemical Technological Institute in Dnepropetrovsk.

10. D.A. Kanayev was the only Politbureau member not mentioned by Mr. Drina in his

opinion



The Arabs and America's homeless

LATE LAST month, the US Department of Health and Human Services estimated that 2 million Americans are now homeless. For many of these people, the cruel streets of big cities are the only places they call home, and trash cans are their only source of food.

Indeed, as Time magazine reports in its 19 December, 1983 issue, many cities such as Phoenix, Arizona, have declared garbage public property; making it a crime to scavenge through trash cans.

Here in Jordan we find it extremely unbelievable that a rich country as the United States would have such a high number of homeless, aimless and poverty-stricken people. But the figures speak for themselves. And during my stay in the United States, which lasted over five years, I have personally known people who, because they could not afford any better, used to survive on cat food and dog food.

Our people in Jordan cannot, nonetheless, understand the irony of the situation. And I do not blame them. How can Arabs in general believe that poverty exists in America, when American money is lavishly given to Shamir and his gang? How can our people believe us when we tell them that many poor Americans are killed each winter because they are literally left out in the cold? Yet, many Arabs do not believe this because they have become victims of what they see of America's 'generosity' in supplying Israel with its latest state-of-the-art weaponry.

Our simple, but honest, people are saying: Instead of assisting Israel to make Arabs homeless in their lands, America should find shelter to the homeless in America.

1977 list. His name is listed, however, in the 1979 edition of Whitaker's Almanack as a full member of the Politbureau. It appears that he replaced the Jew Mazurov who was dropped by Brezhnev, and his Jewish colleagues late in 1978.

11. Konstantin Chernenko, Brezhnev's chief lieutenant and contender for the top post of General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, lost to Andropov who was backed by the army and KGB. Chernenko is an ethnic Russian.

12. M.S. Gorbachev is a full member of the Politbureau in addition to being a member of the Party Secretariat. He is probably a Jew as his name indicates.

The above list, updated to the end of December 1982, reveals the astonishing fact that out of the 12 Politbureau members there are at least 6 Jews who occupy the most sensitive posts in the land and defence state security and foreign affairs.

On April 27, 1983 there appeared on page 6 of the International Herald Tribune a long detailed article by Mr. Robert Gillette of the Los Angeles Times Service in which he pointed out that the Soviet Leadership — meaning the Politbureau — is split in two factions and that there is a great power struggle going on now between Yuri Andropov, leader of one faction, and Konstantin Chernenko, leader of the other.

Development process exacts a price

By Pam Dougherty
Star Staff Writer

THE RAPID pace of development throughout the world is putting enormous pressure on women, says Iraqi-born anthropologist Dr Amal Rassam. Dr. Rassam, who lectured recently at the American Centre on the subject of "Women's Role in Development", says women are increasingly being held hostage to the dilemma of how to preserve traditional cultural values while pursuing the modern development ideal of equal opportunity.

She says the frustration of men in developing societies at their inability to understand and control events is increasingly shown by their attempts at excessive control of women.

The ideological justification for this control derives at least in part, says Dr Rassam, from a view present in many societies that women belong with the natural order and men with culture. Nature is identified as passive while culture is active. Human beings transcend nature through culture; but women are constrained by the function of child-bearing and are less free to pursue culture.

Nature vs. culture

In a situation of rapid change this takes on a political dimension. Women are seen as the guardians of the authenticity of the traditional values, and the forces of law and custom are often used to keep them in their traditional roles.

This nature/culture conflict exists in the United States and Europe, but it takes its own particular forms in the Arab world. There, it is most commonly expressed as a division between the public world of men and the private world of women.

Dr. Rassam emphasises that the specific form of the conflict varies between countries and classes even within the Arab world. She says that much current research on women is devoted to the study of these permutations.

In Saudi Arabia, for example, the authorities continue to maintain a strict separation between men and women. Because Saudi has the financial resources it can afford what amounts to a dual society with separate hospitals, universities, banks etc. In fact this separation has opened

certain categories of jobs to women as doctors, teachers and the like, dealing with other women; but it closes other categories of work completely, for example government jobs.

It is clear that in all Arab countries other than Saudi Arabia this private/public division is breaking down. But it is accompanied by considerable stress and ambivalence, especially as there is no corresponding entry of men into the private sphere of housework and child-rearing.

In these countries the opposition takes the form of opposition to women working or to their working in certain fields; in attitudes to dress, or in opposition to reforms in family law as is happening in Egypt.

In Pakistan there are calls for the adoption of a system close to that of Saudi Arabia, even with a dual court system. Educated Pakistanis are strongly opposed to any move towards greater separation; and they may be helped by the fact that Pakistan does not have the financial resources to maintain such a system.

Dr. Rassam says not all social scientists follow this nature/culture approach in studying Middle Eastern women, preferring instead a social evolutionary approach. They leave aside ideological considerations and concentrate on the organization of labour which they see as the major moving force in society.

They suggest that as societies move from a simple to a complex economy women lose. The problem is that in traditional peasant or nomadic society, the household was a unit of both production and consumption, and women's contribution was very important. Modernization lessens the productive element. Women's work becomes more concentrated on housework and child-rearing and less on the production of food and other household goods. It is consequently devalued.

When new jobs are created and education becomes available, men have access first, and move more readily into modern society. Women are left with an impoverished traditional role.

Class distinctions

Dr. Rassam's own research suggests that whether women profit from the modernization process depends a great deal on their social class and on the wider eco-



Young girls from North Jordan — how bright is their future?

nomic opportunities offered by their society.

Peasant women in Morocco used to make rugs at home and sell them in the market. Now they cannot compete with the prices of rugs produced at factories. Social constraints prevent them from taking jobs in the factories which have deprived them of their independent income.

Dr. Rassam, who is an associate professor at the City University of New York (Queens college) is now carrying out research in Egypt on women in the wage labour market. She has found that well-educated middle and upper-class women are benefiting from development. They tend to have a private education at school and university level, which in the Middle East usually provides them with a good command of two or more languages.

The work in private companies, especially foreign ones, can earn good salaries, find interesting work and are able to compete for promotion.

Because they earn good money they can also afford to hire poorer women to help them with their domestic work after they marry and have a family.

Less sophistication

For lower middle class women in Egypt, the position is not so favourable. As a result of Nasser's policy of opening education to the middle classes there are many women graduates from university and technical institutes. But they have studies in government institutions and don't have the language skills or sophistication of their upper-class sisters. The law says that all graduates must be employed, so

there are thousands in government offices — poorly paid, with jobs offering little satisfaction and with little chance of promotion.

When this is combined with horrendous transport problems, the difficulty of dressing well and the impossibility of paying for child care it is easy to understand why most of them are just waiting for the chance to marry, have a family and stay at home.

For working class women their job is usually a necessity and will continue to be one, even if they have a family. They work as maids, cleaners, street sellers and in factories; and their child care arrangements are usually made informally with neighbours and family.

These women may gain a certain status and measure of control within the family because they contribute to its cash income. But their work is unlikely to offer any personal satisfaction or chances for advancement.

The two different approaches to the study of women that Dr. Rassam talks about are, of course, not mutually exclusive. At all levels of society and in all work situations, women in the Middle East must confront the private/public role conflict, even if they have entered successfully into the modern economy.

And Dr. Rassam is not actually optimistic about the future. She feels that as development continues the reaction will speed up, and women will come under even more pressure as they try to satisfy the demands of their traditional role and find a place in the modern world.

Feminist research

"Women were the first agriculturalists and although they still have a major role in the production of food and fibre for our planet, their role in this activity has been more or less ignored by social scientists and policymakers alike," says the introduction of a new reference work on women.

Resources for feminist research/Documentation sur la recherche féministe, an international periodical of research on women and sex roles, has

attempted to correct some of this ignorance in a special issue on women and agricultural production.

Twenty-one articles document the many roles of women in agriculture and rural society. Book reviews, descriptions of work in progress, an annotated bibliography, and a listing of film resources are intended to provide scholars and activists with access for information in research.



"Things have been going so well that I've been reduced to robbing the comfortably well off to give to the relatively underprivileged."

Yussef Hussein offers masterly landscapes

By Vanessa Batrouni
Special to The Star

YUSSEF HUSSEINY'S familiar spontaneous style has seen him through eight years of landscape painting. Unlike heavier representational work in oil it captures more elusive qualities that imbue each scene almost with a distinct personality.

His latest exhibition at the Alia Gallery, was a move away from the gentle and spacious "motif" landscapes of small trees dwarfed in vast areas towards a more dramatic stance.

Space, previously central to all his work, has been usurped by imposing steep slopes, thrusting boulders and natural landmarks. The emphasis is on massive rocky terrain with its bold sweeps, sheer falls and crisis crossing contours. His hitherto aerial atmospheres have crashed to the ground and the extra weight in both colour, line and shading is a welcome departure from his previous lightweight treatments.

Yussef Hussein was greatly influenced by Mohanna Durra, the master of line, under whom he studied at the Fine Arts Institute here in Amman.

Although he worked on colourful Bedouin portraits in the early years, he found such studies limiting and quickly overthrew them in favour of faster driving line studies of rocky nature scenes with which he has stayed ever since. Line and action remain important in his work; the movement of his brush with its slanting, horizontal and vertical pathways noticeably drawn are part of the structural forces of his compositions. The careful proportions and balanced areas of mass and space in translucent greens, blues and anonymous brown are comparable with the masterly landscape drawings of the Far East.

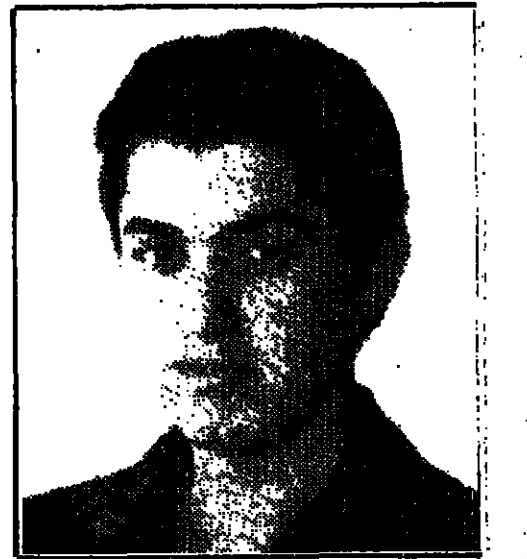
Light, diffused through a transparent veil, along with strong colour are never allowed to distract the viewer from the subject. We are always looking at solid structures and not at their complementary components.

Some may criticise Yussef's work as being monotonous and repetitive but his themes are deliberately repeated and then developed like the variations of a musical idea. He feeds his eye on local scenery around Aqaba and in areas such as Wadi Mujib, sometimes sketching them, some-

times working from memory fragments back in his studio on which he fantasises.

His approach to nature and subsequent interpretations of her beauty and forces is quite unique in recreating a catalogue of her many faces and characters.

"Solid Ruin", stalwart and impressive is dominating. "Protrusion" an angry salute. "Narrow Pass" ominous and forbidding while "Serenity" true to its



Yussef Hussein

title is a still and silent picture of washed down verticals that, along with the empty and remote undulations of "Barren Hills", contrasts quite remarkably with the turbulent and hurried strokes of other landscapes in the series.

Yussef has exhibited every year for the past eight years at various centres in Amman, the Goethe Institute, British Council and Alia Art Gallery amongst them and we have watched his work progress slowly and with caution but always with a firm footing and strong direction. He hopes to carry his style further towards maturity and to eventually arrive at abstraction.

At present he is still exploring the source of abstraction for he maintains that nature is a treasure house of structures that contains all the prototypes of abstract form. Apart from the intellectual viewpoint, the landscapes can be enjoyed for their sheer exuberance that sets them apart from the more passive renderings of most landscape painting.



At the foot of a steep mountain



Protrusion

Children's museums, a unique experience

MANY AMERICAN museums are directed entirely to the education and entertainment of children, or have special departments devoted especially to younger age groups.

Children's museums were first established in the United States about 100 years ago. Today, there are many, perhaps 200 of them. Some are affiliated with libraries

or recreation departments in American communities. Others are independent.

Most emphasize science and nature and usually encourage young visitors to participate in the exhibits, to become active and involved observers, rather than passive ones.

Robert Matthal is director of the Children's Museum and Nature Center of Hartford, Connecticut — one of America's oldest children's museums. He believes the hands-on (actual participation) aspect of children's museums is fundamental to learning.

"Children learn by doing," says Matthal, "by touching and handling things. We make sure that in our museum we have many things that they can touch and get involved in."

Matthal emphasizes that museums should broaden the experience and supplement the regular public school education of children.

The children's museum of Hartford was founded in 1928. What makes it different from other American children's museums is its broad range of activities and facilities. It has a planetarium, an aquarium, a small zoo, a nursery school, and a nature centre that includes several hectares land with trees, birds and animals.

"The collections in the museum, it self," says Matthal, "range from pre-



Children's Museum of Hartford, Connecticut, director Robert Matthal, holding live screech owl, discusses the natural habits of the bird with youngsters.

erials from the Orient — China, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong — to Africa. Maybe half the countries in Africa are represented in our collections. And North and South American Indians and the Eskimos are represented, as well. So our collections number in the tens of thousands. And if you count the live collections of the aquarium and live animal centre that are part of the children's museum, we have many thousands, indeed."

The museum's aquarium contains hundreds of species of fish, and has a special feature that's very popular among children and adults: a hands-on aquarium tank. They can actually see a living animal, a living fish, a living bird. They can see objects from other cultures and, in many cases, handle them. And this is something, of course, that television can never do."

"People can actually reach in and handle the creatures," says Matthal.

(USIS)

New technology no boon for Third World women

FAR FROM reaping the benefits of technological change, women in rural areas of the Third World are finding themselves increasingly isolated from the mainstream of national development, deprived of traditional income-generating activities and denied access to the training which could lead to easier and better paid employment and involve them in social and economic progress.

In Indonesia, for example, the introduction of mechanised rice hullers completely destroyed women's opportunities to earn income through hand-pounding rice. Ten per cent of these payments were in food, which meant a ration that served as four months' food consumption for the family was lost.

Competition from industrial production is threatening women's jobs and incomes from home-brewed beer in Africa and from the production of molasses from sugar cane and date palm in rural Bangladesh.

Moreover, men take over responsibility for women's tasks as soon as they are mechanised or when they are transformed from a subsistence into market production, says a new ILO study on the impact of technology on rural women in developing countries.

It states that in Northern Nigeria government-sponsored milk co-operatives for men and government encouragement of bread production in bakeries are replacing businesses run by women which produced millet balls and soured milk.

With the introduction of a modern dairy complex in Gujarat, India, not a single woman has been trained in the use of the new technology that has taken over her traditional tasks of making butter and cheese.

Mechanisation may even add to the burden of rural women as when new land is brought under cash crop cultivation it is the women who bear the drudgery of increased weeding, harvesting and carrying operations, the study points out.

Introduction of new technology in developing countries serves to make the traditional sexual division of labour even sharper and often brings about a situation where men in rural areas are underemployed while women are seriously overworked.

The study calls for urgent action to help the poorest and most disadvantaged of the rural groups such as the households headed by women in Africa and small peasant households in Asia, who have suffered most from the technical changes brought by modernisation.

It urges the systematic dismantling of the "institutionalisation of discrimination against women" through a combination of policy measures, structural changes and bold institutional reforms.

Technology, in itself an inanimate tool, is neither good nor bad. The benefit or harm it brings is dependent on how it is employed.

(ILO)



The puppet making begins



The cast of 'Suleiman and the Bee'

Children need genuine theatre, says puppeteer

Story and pictures
By Joyce Niles
Special to The Star

"WRITING FOR children, acting, and producing plays for children is a very responsible job," says Wafa Qussous who was Jordan's representative at the Cyprus Centre of International Theatre Institute's conference of Drama in Education which was held from 19 to 21 November.

Wafa says "the theatrical performance of a play gives it vitality, directness and a deep overwhelming power to fascinate and captivate children. A child is the most genuine and unique spectator when the

curtain rises. He is ready to accept anything that is taking place before his eyes, implicitly believing it to be true."

The Cyprus conference discussed this and other aspects of drama including the development of dramatic expression in schools, adult theatre for schools and the development of links between theatre and schools.

Delegates were writers for children, actors, directors of children's theatres, and drama professors and schoolteachers. They believe that introducing drama into the school curriculum as an educational medium will result in a sharpening in the children's abilities to grasp new information quickly, lead them to approach problems in new ways, to experience a wide

range of activities related to this field and act as a release of the tensions they feel.

In theatre work it is the teacher who creates the proper climate for group co-operation and respect for individual ideas and methods of contribution so as to employ children's ideas and make them work positively during the drama.

This work helps to develop a vivid pictorial and aural imagination in children, improves the use of native language and is a way of problem-solving through exploration of ideas.

Delegates resolved to strengthen links with Third World countries, to develop child-centred works that are realistic and relevant to the child's life, his needs and feelings, and to generally improve the material presented to them.

Wafa, who is now director of programming at the Royal Cultural Centre, gave a paper on children's theatre in Jordan according to her experiences as a puppeteer in a touring company. She discussed the problems she faced and her suggestions for solving similar situations.

Puppetry

Wafa's own speciality is puppets and she talked to The Star about her work. "Puppets can do a lot of things that actors can't," Wafa says "after you have worked with them for a while they develop their own personalities and become real."

Wafa, who produced the show "Suleiman and the Bee" featured at this summer's Jerash Festival said a great deal goes in to the presentation of such a programme and other puppet activities. She says that "to put on a script you need first someone who knows puppet design, how to make the heads and build the features — shape the face, make the forehead wide or narrow, how large the eyes should be, what kind of nose and mouth for the character you have in mind," she said. Of course you must know the characters well before you start.

Then you need someone that knows about costumes, how to sew and what colours to use or avoid. Peasants need to be dressed in earth colours — browns, orange and green, and a king must have a splash of red or purple in his dress to indicate that he is royalty.

Puppets need special makeup too. There are certain areas in the face that must have either highlights or shading to emphasize the contours of the face under the overhead lights that are generally used for shows. And someone must know about hairstyles also.

Then there is the music that must fit the script, not to mention people who act, giving the puppets their voices, and movements. Puppeteers need a wide range of skills including scriptwriting, designing, directing, acting and manipulation.

"Some people think that puppets mean fairy stories and that is all. But it is not enough to make a puppet for a few shows

and then leave it. You must use it and then it becomes a person and can help a lot in many other fields," she says.

Sesame Street

In the United States and Europe they are being used extensively for educational and therapeutic purposes. One of the most outstanding examples is the American television programme "Sesame Street". In classroom use the puppet can bridge the gap between teacher and student and make lessons more interesting.

"You can challenge the creativity of children in this way. For instance if you give them an assignment to make a play for a certain holiday or historical event then they will go to the books to find all the facts about the event and then they can write the script, giving them practice in the language.

Perhaps a VIP from another country is visiting. The teacher can ask the pupils to present a show about the visitor's country. This way the children can find out about its people, their customs and dress.

Wafa believes this is a much more effective way for children to learn history and geography than just reading about them in books.

Puppets also have a role in therapy. Handicapped children, or those with speech problems such as stuttering, are often very inhibited and self-conscious. When they work with puppets and speak through the puppet characters they are helped to overcome these inhibitions.

Permanent

Puppet-making lends itself as a crafts project for not only mothers but mother and children teams giving them something that they can enjoy together, and use to strengthen their relationship.

Wafa would like to see a permanent puppet theatre in Jordan but says it would need a fulltime staff of trained people. At present she makes her puppets herself, glove puppets that fit over the hand and rod puppets that are moved by long sticks, but she would be happy to train others to help in her work.

But she emphasises that whether it is in regular theatre or in puppetry this work for children carries a serious responsibility.

"The child has a love for action and adventure, an inherent need for joy and beauty. Whether he is participating directly or watching a play he is just as enthusiastic and has a natural connection with drama. And it is from this natural connection that our own responsibility emanates whether we are playwrights, actors or producers," Wafa says.

Every time the curtain rises hopes for a positive contribution co-exist with the danger of disorientation, confusion. For this, it is the duty of every person working in this field to offer a performance perfect in all aspects which will rightly serve children's theatre. Whatever is to be said has to be told simply, correctly and above all truly.



Character from 'Suleiman and the Bee'



Wafa Qussous



Glove puppet



A 'Junk' puppet made from a corn oil container



George Sarkis with Miss World 1982



Mansour Moreb at work

Jordan's ladies look to their crowning glory

By Najwa Kefay
Special to The Star

"A WOMAN'S hair is her crowning glory" says the old expression, and the dressing of that hair is an art.

The texture, the colour, the cut and setting of a woman's hair makes a big difference to her looks and can give either a good or a bad impression of her.

But do Jordanian women value the hairdressers' art?

Hairdresser George Sarkis believes that Jordanian women do take good care of their appearance and particularly of their hair. George says some of his customers come to his salon every day to have their hair done.

George likes to cut hair, he also likes to comb long hair but, he says, unfortunately most women in Jordan now wear their hair short.

When it comes to his work, George says "I consider myself an artist, and the beauty of a woman's head is my target. I don't rush, but take my time and try to perfect my job as much as possible, to an extent that people blame me for being too slow". In fact George won the golden scissors prize of \$2-83, for his very accurate cutting.

George doesn't like women to be slaves to hair fashions. He says "I don't think that fashion should be followed blindly, no all fashions suit all types of women, and they are not meant to".

When George is not working in his Amman salon, he likes to participate in international hairdressing competitions and has won many prizes over the years. His recent successes include the prize of honour in the 1982-83 World Festival in Paris and Cup of Europe in the Cannes Festival of 1983-84.

George is also a member of the four hairdressing syndicates of Paris and a member of an international committee for beauty contests. He has recently been in London as a member of the Lebanese committee to participate in crowning Miss World for 1983-84.

Mansour Moreb, another of Amman's well-established hairdressers, says that in his twenty years here he has noticed a great change in the attitude of women to their hair.

Mansour says when he first opened his own shop, women would come once a week to have their hair set and washed, now they come every other day or every two or three days.

Today's women, says Mansour, are more aware that their hair needs care and attention just the same as their complexions or figures do. They go to the hairdresser regularly for oil treatment or for a trim to refresh their hair.

"There are always new things" when it comes to maintaining the liveliness of hair and its strength and this is why a hairdresser has to go to international festivals as often as possible to keep ideas up to date," he says.

Mr Anis Alnaber, chairman of the Jordanian Hairdressers' Union, says there has been an unbelievable change in attitudes during his 24 years as a hairdresser.

He says the Jordanian woman has started giving a lot of importance to the beauty of her hair and her visits to the hairdresser have become more frequent than her visits to the vegetable shop or supermarket.

He says this has, of course, improved the standard of hairdressers in the country, and their number have increased dramatically. When he first started in hairdressing there were only about 40 in this field now there are over 400.

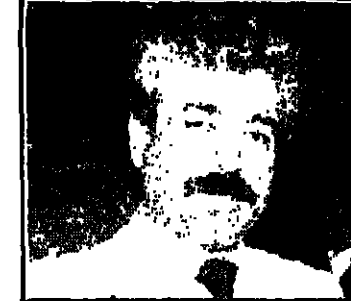
And what do the women of Jordan have to say?

Mrs. Carol Batash is 27 years old and has been married for five years. She has three and a half year old son. She has been working for a car rental office for nearly two years now.

Mrs Batash told The Star that she rarely went to hairdressers when she was a student or even before she got married. She used to fix her hair by herself. "Now," she says, "I feel I have to go twice a week at least. My job demands that my hair is always tidy, and I have become so used to this idea that it becomes a necessity rather than a luxury for special occasions."

Carol spends 25 per cent of her monthly salary on her hair, but neither she nor her husband seems to mind it. She says her husband always appreciates her hair style, do even though she likes to have unusual hair styles.

Mrs. May Khoury Bogle is 23 years old and has been married



Anis Al Naber

to a Canadian for two years. Her husband is a guitar teacher and she is an employee.

May says she likes to go to hairdressers and to change the style and colour of her hair, and she likes it mostly short. Her husband she says, prefers the opposite. He prefers her natural hair which is long and brown. Now they have come to an arrangement.

May likes her husband's moustache long and he likes her hair long, so, if she cuts her hair he will cut his moustache, and vice versa. He will even colour his moustache if she colours her hair. As a result of this arrangement May hardly ever goes to hairdressers or pays any of her salary for hairdressers. But she does pay the hairdresser an occasional surprise visit so she can change her appearance for her husband's sake although it's against his will.

Mrs Hana Kurdy who is the mother of three children the youngest of whom is 8 years old, says that she has to visit the hair dresser at least once every three days. To her it is a necessity, and she says "I've been doing this ever since I was in school. I used to escape from my classes to the hair dresser's shop and have my hair done, and the teacher used to rebuke me and call me 'nouveau riche'."

The first time she went to a hair dresser was when she was 8 years old, she ran away from the house to the hair dresser and told him to curl her very long hair, as it was the fashion at that time. When she went back home her family laughed at her but, to this day, she still has the photographs they took of her.

But despite this apparent upsurge of interest Mansour Moreb believes that hair is still underestimated here. "The Jordanian woman in general," he says, "would rather spend her money on a dress or on make-up than on a good hair treatment."



Holiday wishes

THE HOLIDAY season is with us here in Jordan. First we had the celebrations of the Prophet Mohammad's birthday and in the same week the remembrance of Christ's nativity. These two dates do not often coincide as Mohammad's day is recorded in the Islamic lunar calendar which is approximately ten and one-half months of the solar year.

Religious songs and depictions of events in the life of Mohammad are part of ceremonies in schools, and other special services are also held for groups in remembrance of this day.

And for Christmas there are similar programmes. We have built up a reservoir of carols and other pieces of music related to this event. Many of the favourite carols sing of peace on earth. In the time before and during Christmas many have been singing and praying for peace, joining those exceptional few who hope for it year around.

I envy those people in a way because they so faithfully continue to hope and pray for improvements in political conditions while I, perhaps, have become cynical.

I cite the compelling evidence of history that is by and large a chronicle of past skirmishes, battles and wars. Things have always been that way. How can I hope that they suddenly will become any different?

Will there suddenly be a breakthrough in the field of human relations that will enable mankind to resolve differences without resorting to violent means? Will it ever become possible to eradicate war as in the field of medicine the dreaded disease smallpox has ceased to plague the human race? There are people who hope for this.

But how long would it take to realise this goal if it is within the realm of possibility? Perhaps lifetimes over lifetimes. I don't deny the right of those who pray for world peace to continue to do so, and indeed, they are an inspiration to us to temper our cynicism just a little. And there are those who are working out their lifeblood to find concrete methods of resolving situations that might lead to open conflicts. Yet as we listened to others sing of peace on earth we were made even more aware of the strife around us. We long for peace — if only for a little while.

Very few of us can hope to influence the global situation or even the region which we are in but we do have one area of total control. That is within our own personality. We have a capacity for strife, stress and anger and we also have an equal capacity for peace and serenity. But some of us develop like crabs on a beach that have one immense claw and one nearly vestigial appendage.

We have used the one side of our personality and strengthened it until the other side has all but disappeared. We quarrel and fight with increasing adeptness and then once a year we long for peace. We sing about peace, talk about it. The season passes and we go back to our old routine.

We need to find that small, weakened, nearly vestigial part of our personality and then work to strengthen it, exercise it, use it regularly before it entirely disappears. We need to know where this peaceful part of our personality is, to mark the spot, whatever method we might use — each one of us is different, may need a different way to do it — and then try to enlarge it so that more of our life is peaceful — from within if not from without.

So I am not going to wish you a HAPPY new year. It would be exhausting to all of us if we were HAPPY for all the 365 days of 1984. I wish that you may find that peaceful part of yourself in the coming year and that you will be able to make that part a little bigger.

Would you believe it?

THE HUNT for an escaped tortoise led West German police to an unexpected find — a drugs cache.

A police spokesman said the tortoise's owners made so much noise searching for it in their attic that they woke up neighbours and a bitter row erupted.

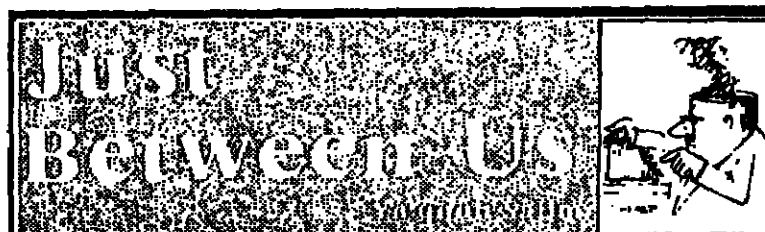
Police were called and arrested one neighbour, a 34-year-old man. In his flat they found eight kg of hashish oil and 1.5 kg of compressed hashish, the spokesman said.

...

BURGLARS who raided a London tavern took away £650 (\$975) worth of valuables and Gina the guard dog who was supposed to look after them.

The 'Doberman' Pinscher's sentry career came to an end when the gang fed her packets of potato chips.

"Gina's normally very fierce, but she's partial to chips," said her owners.



The real spirit

THE HOLIDAY spirit of Christmas joy and generosity has been hard to miss this year. That infectious blend of jingle bells, St. Nick and mistletoe is inescapable — no matter how hard you try.

I don't know if I'm right, but it seems that all of Amman went much further overboard than usual for Christmas 1983. To mention just one thing, there were the innumerable red-coated Santas, who could now apply for special treatment due to their ethnic peculiarities as a sizable minority of the population. They formed such a throng on the pavements that there was hardly room for normal civilian pedestrians, whose lives were endangered by having to walk out in the street.

That, however, was a minor inconvenience. Innocent passers-by who entered any of the city's major hotels during the past week, to meet a guest or have a coffee, were in danger of being shanghaied and forced to attend one of the dozen frenzied "celebrations" that went on round the clock — leaving them with little at the end besides a hangover and a great big twenty-dinar hole in the pocket.

Nevertheless, the Christmas spirit is so pervasive that one could hardly avoid catching at least a bit of it. A smile springs to my face when, pounding the pavements to find a gift, I am unable to read the prices in the store window because of all the "Merry Xmas" that have been sprayed all over it with imitation snow. That's lots of fun, especially when you're in the hands of shopkeepers who will do their friendly best to take advantage of your ignorance. The other game I like a lot is seeing how many scratches and dents I can achieve on my car in the parking lot of the only store in town that sells decent bread — which also happens to be the only store where every single other person in the city wants to go to buy gifts, candy, clothes, furniture and other jolly things like that. After a few collisions with cars determined to enter by the exit, I'm really ready to sing a few sweet carols.

Then there are the glorified toy stores that pass for book-shops and pharmacies in this town. Heaven help any man who wanted to examine the newsmagazines at a major library between 10 and 29 December. Unless he was accustomed to reading the headlines to the accompaniment of Christmas carols played at full blast, and able to deal with violent crowds of children quarrelling over the toys on sale, he'd have done better to stay home and listen to the news on the radio.

Christmas was already over when I had my latest encounter with its merry influence. I hope nobody else was trying to find an open druggist on the same afternoon I was; for it seems that the good will towards all men that was proclaimed in their shop windows extended to the belief that during this season, there is no need to give any material assistance to a man with a raging toothache. Ho ho ho.

After attending one of the wild affairs called children's parties that were held at the hotels this year, I was reassured by the good work that is being done to instill a spirit of loving selflessness in our younger generation. No matter that the competitive games were a little rough — there were only one or two broken bones at the end. But the brightest of the kids were really learning a lot at that party. Why, I saw one of them walk off with no less than seven gifts under his arm, while the intended recipients gazed after him with a stunned expression. And that's the real meaning of Christmas, isn't it?

CALENDAR

Ballet

The French Cultural Centre presents the contemporary dance company "Le Theatre du Silence."

Thursday 29 December at 8.00 pm

At the Royal Cultural Centre

Exhibition

"The Orientalists" an exhibition of 19th and early 20th century paintings continues at the Aila Art Gallery until the end of December

Film

The Goethe Institute presents three documentary films "Deutschlandspiegel" (Arabic), "Ein Tage im Leben des Martin Luther" (German) and "Bona is far away..." (English)

Wednesday 4 January at 8.00 pm

Video

The American Centre presents the video series "Allstar Cooks America"

Mondays at 4.00 pm and 7.00 pm

Amman says goodbye to Paolo and his motorbike

AMMAN lost one of its most popular diplomats recently with the departure of Italian Cultural Attache Paolo Piazzardi who had been here for five years.

A farewell luncheon was held for him at the Um Uthbiya Hotel and although the guests had the opportunity to sample the delicious dishes of the hotel's new Italian chef, the atmosphere was slightly sad as they knew that this was the time to say farewells and goodluck to Paolo

Before he left Paolo talked to The Star about his time here.

"Jordan was quite a new experience for me," Paolo said. "This country made me feel as if I were a new and younger person and I took up to a lot of activities I had never done before, like riding motor bikes." "Anyway the hills of Amman make riding quite an exciting and enjoyable experience," he added.

"Jordan was growing up and not quite settled down when I first arrived in 1978," he said, commenting on what he has observed. "Yet, at the same time, there was a high level of response and now the cultural scene here has really come to life. All this has motivated me to continue with my work with enthusiasm."

Paolo said that when he first arrived, there was a lack of proper equipment for cultural events as well as a proper cultural centre. Despite this, the Ita-

lian Embassy has sponsored over 25 cultural activities during the last five years, the most recent one being the Scala Ballet.



Paolo Piazzardi

There were some embarrassing moments for Paolo. One he recalled occurred quite recently when, during a film festival, the audience was quite surprised to find that one of the films lacked any English or French subtitles. "There was nothing we could do at the last moment," he explained. "Well, at least the audience was free to admire the picture and the scenes, but after the show, several people came up to me and asked what the ending was like," he said with a smile.

During his time here Paolo gave Italian language courses at the University of Jordan for four years. "This gave me a direct and clear idea about the intellec-

tual situation in Jordan," he said. "There were only five students enrolled in the very first course I gave and I really did my best so as not to disappoint myself or anyone else. Believe me, I remember those five students better than most of the many students I taught afterwards." He said that this experience helped him tremendously in his post as cultural attache.

Paolo was sorry to leave Jordan. "I found numerous facilities here and seldom did I face obstacles. It is quite easy to establish human contacts here, for the people are co-operative, flexible and understanding. I hope I will find the same at my new post, wherever it is," he said. "Yes, I can say that I have done well in improving my experience and human contacts, but not my Arabic — that seems to be a hopeless case."

Paolo expected to return to the Foreign Ministry in Rome, but there were also rumours that his next posting would be France. As for those who have a deep yearning to take the opportunity to get hold of Paolo's antique 1953 BSA bike, most likely to have been owned by the Jordanian Army, there is a disappointment. Paolo has decided to hold on to it as a keep sake of Jordan and his experiences here — he says falling off the bike twice because of its lack of brakes is something that should not be forgotten.

Friends of Archaeology



Dr. Ghazi Bisheh in action at the recent Friends trip to Mushehe

IT SEEMS the Friends are gearing up slowly for 1984 and activities won't be getting underway until late in the month.

First event coming up is on Friday 20 January when Dr. Kheir Yassine, Professor of Archaeology at the University of Jordan will lead a trip to Deir Alla, Tell Mazar and Tell Saidieh in the Jordan Valley. The Friends are also hoping to reach the Jordan River, for this they will need each person's name, nationality and passport number by Thursday 12 January.

Departure is, as usual, at 8.30 am from the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre.

If you have time free on Saturday 21 January you can go along

to hear Dr. Yassine explaining the findings from Tell Mazar which are now in the University of Jordan Archaeological Museum. Meet at 9.50 am in front of the library near the main entrance of the university or proceed directly to the Museum at 10.00 am.

One date not to be forgotten is Monday 23 January when the annual general meeting of the Friends will take place at the British Council. At 6.00 pm you will have the chance to renew your membership. At 6.30 pm there will be an address by Friends President, Raouf Abu-jaber and a statement of accounts by Treasurer Isam Jamil.

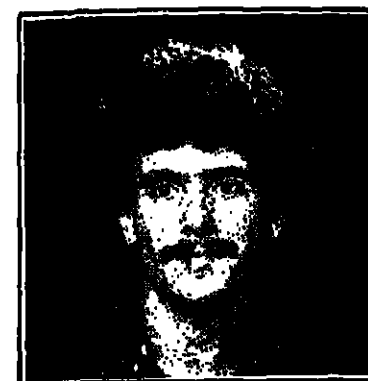
At 7.00 pm Dr. Ghazi Bisheh of the Department of Antiquities

will give an illustrated lecture on "Some Observations on the Qasr Amra frescoes — a stylistic and iconographical analysis."

The meeting is open to both members and prospective members.

If you want something to look forward to, Friend's Vice President Salim Saad is working on a four or five day trip for members in February. St. Catherine's Monastery in the Sinai or Yemen are the possible destinations.

And while you are dreaming — the British Institute needs volunteers to help with pottery sorting and other projects on two to three mornings a week. For details contact Andy Garrard at 841317.



Ammar Khammash

The people of Lafayette, Louisiana in the United States will soon be able to enjoy a very special view of Jordan.

Artist Ammar Khammash, who will be exhibiting his paintings at the "Maison du Quebec" in Lafayette next month, has a special feeling for the old towns and villages of Jordan and features them in his work.

Fellow artist Fouad Mimi, says Ammar likes to paint the scenes which capture the atmosphere of a place. In Salt it is the beautiful old houses, in Amman the second hand clothes market downtown. We must look forward to seeing the paintings that are inspired by Ammar Khammash's years in Louisiana where he is studying art and architecture.

Back in Amman this week, after an absence of nearly three years, is Bill Lee.

Bill is a roving journalist who came to rest for two years in Amman, where he served as editor of the Jordan Times until early in 1981.

Bill is now head of MEED's bureau in Washington, DC, keeping in touch with both economic and political developments there.

Jordan's Christian Indian community celebrated Christmas with great fervour this year.

Two groups, one led by Father Thomas Kurian and the other by Mr. Issac Raj, spent a delightful Christmas Eve going from house to house singing carols.

On Christmas morning Father Kurian celebrated a special Mass for the Malayalam speaking community at St. Ephrem's Church in Ashrafia. The community was particularly happy that Father Kurian, who is attached to the Damascus Patriarchate, could be with them in Amman for this occasion. During his stay here Father Kurian was a guest of the St. Ephrem's Church community.

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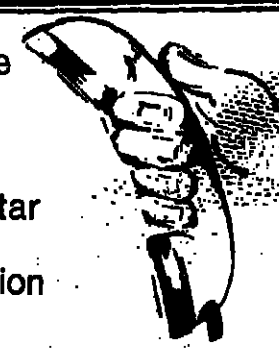
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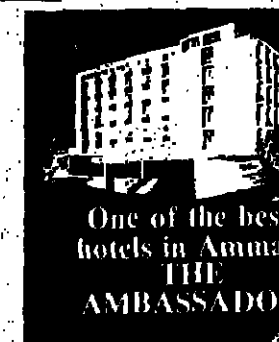
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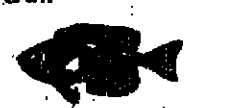
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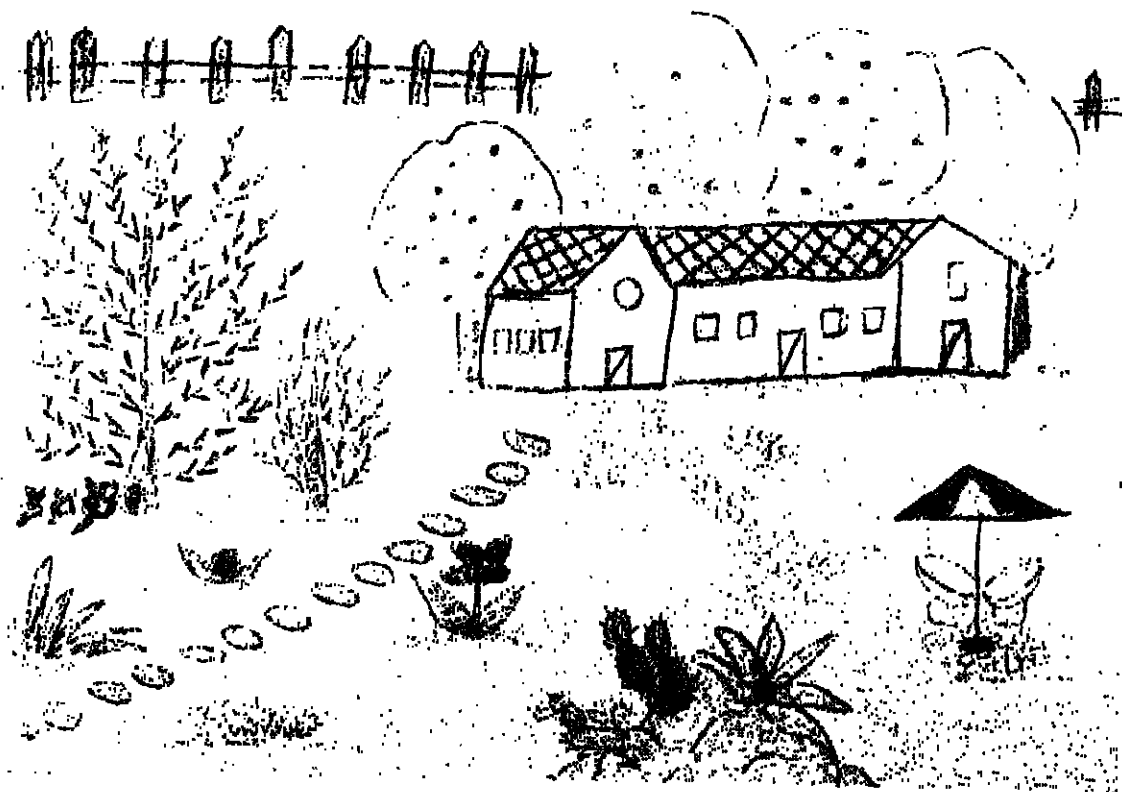
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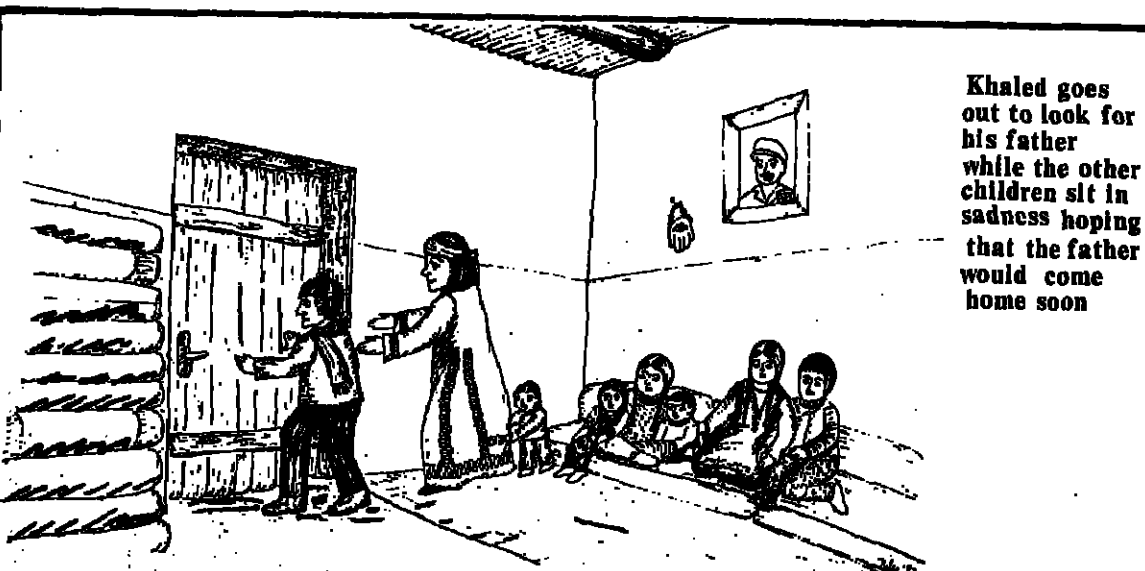
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PICTURE CORNER



Soha Amin Abu Hejleh who is in the second preparatory class sent this lovely picture of a house in the countryside. Well-done Soha



Khaled goes out to look for his father while the other children sit in sadness hoping that the father would come home soon

The Lumberman

The lumberman, Lutfi, was very tired and exhausted when he reached the place he decided to gather wood from. He felt asleep as soon as he sat down in the shade of the big tree. When he woke up, it was getting dark. His family at home was very upset for his being so late.

By Hamdan Al-Haj

After Khaled listened to his mother and noted the grief on her face, he politely asked his mother to let him go and look for his father with the promise that he would not go beyond the village boundaries. He sadly left the house and silently asked God, the sky, the trees and mother Nature to bring his father back safely to them. For it was his father who was their sole provider and guide.

He gazed through the trees of the forest, but all was in vain. He then returned home sorrowfully. He thought about how miserable their situation would be if their father was lost forever - would not come back.

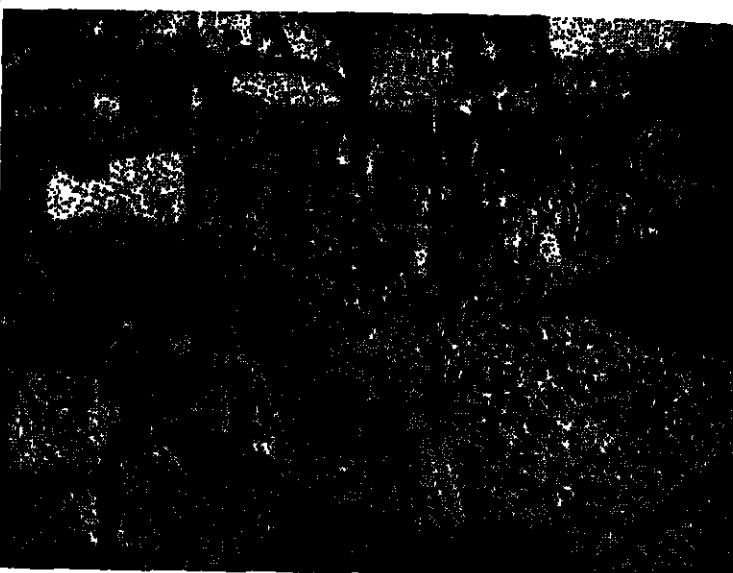
Deep inside the forest, Lutfi was trodding through rough and blocked roads. He was determined to leave the forest by any possible way as he thought of the several rumours that would be said about his being lost. He was afraid to spend the night in the forest, for there were wild animals that might attack and kill him. His

sons would then feel guilty had he met such a fate, for people will say that he was killed trying to provide a living for his family.

Lutfi stopped on one of the crooked roads, trying to spot out any light that might come from a nearby house, if there was any, but he saw nothing in the gloomy forest. He then returned to his aimless walk, but with fear in the heart. Whenever he heard a strange noise, his heart would miss a beat.

He thought more about his family and the security of the village. If something happened to him that night, his family would be forced to move out of their home to look for work, to earn a living and his boys would be deprived of their education. He began to weep when he saw a light far ahead. He headed towards it without hesitation. He thought that he could get a hot supper and a place to sleep for the night and then set off towards home with the first break of daylight.

ODDITIES



After an earthquake at Jamalpur, India

What causes an earthquake?

AN EARTHQUAKE is a series of waves which spreads out in all directions from a central source of disturbance. These waves, or oscillations, are land waves, or rock waves, just as waves at sea are water waves, and they can be caused by any blow or sudden movement of objects or materials. Even a lawnmower, as it cuts the grass on an observatory lawn, can precipitate an earthquake easily measurable by refined modern seismographs or earthquake-recording instruments.

The strike of a steam-hammer originates a disturbance exactly similar in its essential nature to a disastrous earthquake shock that may wreck a big city, with heavy loss of human life. The slipping of surface rocks under gravity; the flow of molten rock under the cool, hard, outer crust of the earth; the multiple high-speed motions of the earth itself; sudden alterations of temperature and barometric pressure; storms and the tides.

These things, and a score of others, combine to impose a terrific all-round strain and keep the earth's surface incessantly quivering like a giant fly-wheel.

Sabah

Our Fascinating EARTH

BY PHILIP SEFF, Ph.D. & DAVID BAER, II

THEY REFLECTED THE CLOUDS



FEW PEOPLE REALIZE THAT THE EGYPTIAN PYRAMIDS WERE ONCE COMPLETELY FACED WITH HIGHLY POLISHED MARBLE. WHEN THE GREEK HISTORIAN, HERODOTUS, TRAVELED IN EGYPT, HIS DESCRIPTION OF THE PYRAMIDS, WHICH WERE ALREADY ANCIENT, WAS THAT THEIR FACES WERE SO HIGHLY POLISHED THAT HE COULD SEE THE CLEAR REFLECTION OF THE CLOUDS PASSING OVERHEAD.

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By Henry Arnold

Week commencing 29 December, 1983

CAPRICORN — December 21st to January 19th



A very happy week is in store for you as far as romantic matters are concerned. At business, a disappointment may upset you just a little around mid-week, but you will be more than compensated for this later on. At home, you appear to have a good week. Domestic affairs run extremely smoothly, but do not mar this by allowing a relative to push you around.

AQUARIUS — January 20th to February 18th



A difficulty which may arise in a romantic relationship may be solved far more easily than you expect this week, if you take the advice which is offered you by a shrewd and kind business associate. You must try to remember that unkind gossip is not worthy of your thoughts. You, of course, will be right to be annoyed, but treat it with indifference, and in this way, it will very soon be forgotten.

PISCES — February 19th to March 20th



This could prove to be a rather irritating week where your working life is concerned, but just providing that you are doggedly determined, you can rise above it. Around you, there may be a girl-friend, who has become rather jealous of you. She may be rather unhelpful, but if you remain firm and use tact, things should be O.K.

ARIES — March 21st to April 20th



People around you may try to influence you against a friend some time during this coming week. You must remain loyal. You, and you alone know how worthy this person is of your trust. A misunderstanding with a loved one can be averted if you make certain to express yourself in no uncertain terms. This appears to be your week in nearly every way.

TAURUS — April 21st to May 20th



It is possible that you will have some doubts about a member of the opposite sex, who is very dear to you. You would be very well advised to say nothing at the moment. If you take care not to take too much for granted during this coming week, you could pull off a new project most successfully, so you would do well to let your ideas have full scope.

GEMINI — May 21st to June 20th



If this week feels as if it will never come to an end, do not despair, for much better days are ahead of you, and the future looks very bright. Your opposite number may try to frustrate certain plans which you may have been making. On no account should you let this lead to a quarrel between the two of you, but just for the moment, keep your own counsel. Finances appear to improve a little now.

Thursday 29 December

Birthday Greetings to You. During the next two months, do try not to be over-sensitive, for this could play on your nerves, and thus cause your health to suffer slightly. Apart from this, your health should be satisfactory.

Romance should be very much in the air, and there could be talk of an engagement around the April period.

Where your career is concerned, an unexpected offer from a superior during February could delight you, and in connection with this, you should be able to realise one of your greatest ambitions.

Financially, several little gains could come your way during this coming year, and by your next anniversary, you should feel much more comfortable.

Friday 30 December

Birthday Greetings to You. Family problems may become a little pressing towards the end of March, and in this connection, you would be well advised to seek the advice of a trusted friend, who has helped you before. However, this matter should soon blow over, and family affairs will then run smoothly once again.

Towards the end of April, an acquaintance may put an unusual proposition to you which could involve some travel, and by accepting this, there could be in the long run, quite a lot of prosperity for you.

You may be slightly anxious about your relationship with a colleague at work, with whom you have never really seen eye to eye, but there is every indication that affairs will soon be sorted out, and you should feel much happier.

Saturday 31 January

Birthday Greetings to You. A close friend may help you to realise an ambition of yours during the next two or three months, and in connection with this, you should find that it will benefit you financially, and you will feel more secure than for some time past.

Where work is concerned, try not to be disheartened if you do not receive praise for your past endeavours, for all the indications are that a pleasant happening awaits you in this direction, and one that should mean that you will receive recognition or promotion.

An older person who is a very good friend of yours, may take up a good deal of your time during the next two months, and they could help you considerably with a new project, which you are planning.

CANCER — June 21st to July 21st

The indications are that during this coming week, you may clash with a very strong-minded superior at work. It will be best for you to give way for the moment, even if you are sure you are right. Time will solve the problem. A disagreement in the home can be eased if only you will take the time to explain your point of view clearly. You will be glad that you did this, as it will avoid an unnecessary rift.

LEO — July 22nd to August 21st

An opportunity to travel could present itself to you under rather unusual circumstances. If you use your common sense, you can turn this to good advantage. In the home, you could find it really necessary to do a little re-organising. An older person may resent this at first, but will come round to seeing your point of view, if you use a little tact and diplomacy.

VIRGO — August 22nd to September 21st

Try not to let yourself become emotionally involved with someone you know to be a philanderer. You can be strong-minded about things when you wish, so be wise now. This is a week when you really must try to keep down expenses, and not let outside influences encourage you to overspend. Someone in your circle may offer you some good advice on a small problem which you may have at the moment.

LIBRA — September 22nd to October 22nd

Don't keep putting off a visit to a friend or relative who has not been too well just lately, for this is a week when if you put your mind to it, you can make just such a visit more of a pleasure than a duty. The way you will be received will be very rewarding. Romance is the key word for this coming week, either for you or those around you. An unexpected visit from someone dear to you could make this a week to remember.

SCORPIO — October 23rd to November 21st

A close friend may come to you with a romantic problem, which involves you in a small degree. For the sake of everyone concerned, say what you really think, and don't beat about the bush. A plan which has been in the back of your mind for quite a long time, may suddenly become possible. Approach this carefully, and with a good deal of thought, and do not be afraid to ask the advice of an older person around you.

SAGITTARIUS — November 22nd to December 20th

A loved one could cause a fair amount of irritation and delays over certain projects for you. This may lead to slight arguments, but none of these will be serious, so don't worry. This is a week which although it begins slowly, could end up by being most interesting when you will be able to put your artistic talents to good use, helping out at a social event. Finances take a definite turn for the better.

Monday 2 January

Birthday Greetings to You. You have a very full and interesting year ahead of you. Your natural tendency to be popular is good, but you would do well to watch out that in being very pleasant to new friends, you do not lose the love of proven friends, so try to even your attentions more.

Quite a few changes are sign-posted. Firstly, new surroundings either domestic or work-wise. Secondly, a strong chance for you to be able to plan ahead with less family ties to create problems for you.

In the financial field, you should be lucky enough to know a new security which you have not had for a very long while past, but where cash is concerned, be guided, and do not be too easy for anyone who may wish to borrow.

Tuesday 3 January

Birthday Greetings to You. Family problems could be the cause of just a little anxiety for you during the next two or three months, but after this, all the chances are that you should get your own way for most of the time during this coming year.

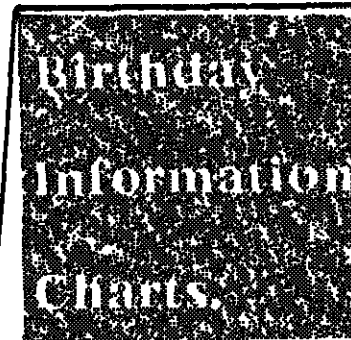
Financial affairs appear to straighten themselves out for you, and this should help you to feel much more secure than you have been doing over the past two years.

Even though during the spring months, you may have some anxiety about your health conditions, by the time you reach your next birthday, you will be feeling and looking really 100 per cent fitter.

Wednesday 4 January

Birthday Greetings to You. During the next three or four months, a chance to travel should come your way. About this, keep your own counsel and use your own judgment and above all, do not be put off by the envy and jealousy of another person.

A letter which you may have sent to a relative within the last six weeks could bring you some good luck in a very unexpected manner, but in the financial field, you could be invited to invest in a financial speculation during the next four months. This, you would be well advised to say no to, for strong, as it may appear, the indications are that it will not meet with success.



Sunday 1 January

Birthday Greetings to You. A personal problem which may have been causing you a little worry of late should straighten itself out during the next two or three months, but you would be well advised to try and have patience with someone very close to you.

You will find that travel will play an important part in your life next month. You would be well advised to ask the advice of someone in a higher and more responsible position than yourself, before you embark on any wild venture.

In your working life, a person of some influence could offer you some advice in the near future, and you would do well to take it, for you should find that this results in changes for you, plus added security which you have been hoping for.

You should guard against over-tiredness during the next few weeks.

PEANUTS

featuring
"Good ol'
Charlie Brown"
by SCHULZ

SOMEBODY'S AT THE DOOR!

HI, CHARLES! WE'VE COME TO ASK YOU TO GO TO THE MOVIES WITH US.

DON'T WALK BETWEEN US, CHUCK... WALK ON THE OUTSIDE...

DON'T SIT BETWEEN US, CHUCK. SIT OVER HERE ON THE AISLE, CHARLES.

DON'T WALK ON THE INSIDE, CHUCK... WALK OVER HERE ON THE OUTSIDE, CHARLES...

DON'T STAND IN FRONT OF US, CHUCK. YOU SHOULD STAND BEHIND US, CHARLES.

ONE, PLEASE.

HOW WAS THE MOVIE? DID YOU HAVE A NICE TIME?

I'M NOT SURE.

DON'T STAND IN FRONT OF THE TV... STAND OVER THERE...

YOU WOULD HAVE ENJOYED IT.

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FRANK AND ERNEST

DON'T LOOK NOW, BUT HERE COMES OLD LO-TECH.

OH, GREAT! IT LOOKS LIKE HE WIPED HIS MEMORY AT LUNCH AGAIN!

THE HUMAN ELEMENT! ... BLECHHH!

WHY DO WE HAVE TO PUT UP WITH IT?

WELL, THE WAY I SEE IT, THEY CAN'T COMPUTE THEMSELVES, BUT THEY CAN THINK UP NEAT STUFF FOR US TO COMPUTE.

IT'S A VERY DELICATE ECOLOGICAL BALANCE.

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Tarzan

by EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS

A BRONZED GIANT PULLS HIMSELF INTO SULEIMAN KHAN'S PROA! THE PRIVATE CHIEF'S PLAN TO ESCAPE BECOMES A FANTASY!

TARZAN!

NOT EVEN THE FIERCENESS OF THE DYAKS IS A MATCH FOR THE STEEL THROWS OF THE APEMAN!

AS TARZAN DISPATCHES THE DYAKS, THE PROA PLAYS AROUND ON THE CORAL REEF, RIPPING OPEN ITS BOTTOM.

WITH THE GREAT WHITE SHARKS ALREADY IN A FEEDING FRENZY, TARZAN TOSSES THEM SULEIMAN KHAN!

AS THE PROA CAPSIZES, TARZAN DIVES DEEP INTO THE WATER! HE KNOWS THAT IF THE SHARKS CAN PENETRATE THE BARRIER REEF, THERE IS AN OPENING TO THE SEA!

REACHING THE DECK OF THE ROLAND, TARZAN FINDS A WARM EMBRACE FROM HIS WIFE AND A HORIZON PROMISING NEW ADVENTURES!

JOHN!

I THINK WE CAN HEAD FOR HOME NOW, CAPTAIN!

NEXT WEEK: "IN THE FORESTS OF THE NIGHT"

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GARFIELD

GARFIELD

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THE JERUSALEM STAR

